LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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future development

Sir Arthur Robinson, G. C. B., C. B. E., A. I. M. T. A., has awarded a prize of three guineas to Mr. W. J. Parry of the City Treasurer's Office, Liverpool, for an essay on the most probable lines of the future development of Local Government in this country in regard to (1) areas of Local Government and (2) the division of powers between the various types of local authority, and between local authorities as a whole and the state.

The Competition was divided into two classes. The winning essay in Class II will be published next month.

Mr. William J. Parry

Mr. William John Parry is a native of Liverpool. He was educated at the Liverpool College and studied at the School of Social Sciences at the University of Liverpool. The whole of Mr. Parry's business life has been spent in the service of the Liverpool Corporation. He is now technical assistant to the City Treasurer, Mr. W. H. Legh-Smith, Honorary Treasurer of N.A.L.G.O. During the Great War he served with the Royal Air Force in France and Italy. He is an Associate Member of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants (incorporated), and has served for some years on the Executive Committee of the North-Western Students' Society of the Institute, and is a representative on the Executive Committee of the Joint Committee of Students' Societies.

Mr. Parry is Lecturer in Public Administration at the Liverpool City School of Commerce. His services are in frequent demand as a lecturer in social and administrative problems, and he has delivered several lectures to the Students' Societies of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants and the Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers.

Mr. Parry has been a member of N.A.L.G.O. since its inception in Liverpool.

Looking Back

Haphazard Development

The outstanding feature of the development of local government until quite recently has been its fortuitous development. The Englishman's characteristic individualism has been reflected in local administration. Growing public requirements were met in the first instance by voluntary effort, to be adopted later as public services.

The Voluntary Principle

After the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539, the voluntary principle was tried out for the relief of the poor, but step by step, the voluntary principle was broken down until the system of parochial responsibility was established. Public education received its modern impetus from the two voluntary bodies which represented respectively the Anglican and Nonconformist interests. Voluntary Housing Associations, founded by Chadwick, Shaftesbury, and others, prepared the way for public interest in the housing of the working classes. Friendly Societies were the pioneers of the National Health Insurance. Trade Unions and private establishments led the way to Labour Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance.

Bringing Order Out of Chaos

It would be heresy in mentioning the evils of the old "ad hoc" system which became so prevalent in the nineteenth century, if reference was not made to the classical phrase of Chalmers that local government had become "a chaos of areas, a chaos of authorities, and a chaos of rates." Since then the work of the Legislature has been directed towards bringing some kind of order out of this chaos chiefly by action along the lines of:

(i) combining areas and authorities,
(ii) consolidating rates,
(iii) making administration more uniform, and
(iv) introducing central control.

The process of bestowing functions has been by the marked stages of:

(i) providing adoptive powers,
(ii) granting optional powers,
(iii) imposing statutory obligations, and
(iv) enforcing provision by default powers.

The growth of the social services during the past quarter of a century has been phenomenal and has added considerably to the difficulty and complexity of the problems of public administration, and together with the substitution of the needs test for the destitution test, has made the local authority the agency for the maintenance of a minimum standard of life for all in need.

Joint Action and Regional Schemes

During more recent years, the promotion of joint action has been a feature of local administration. Judging by the lack of use of the powers of federation granted under the Education Act, 1921, however, it does not seem to have captured the popular imagination to any great extent.

Transfer of Local Functions to State Control

In 1877 the responsibility for the management of prisons was transferred to the Home Office. This example of the transfer of functions to a central department appears to have stood alone in splendid isolation until the transfer of the responsibility for the maintenance of the unemployed was transferred to the Unemployment Assistance Board, under the Unemployment Act, 1934, although it may be noticed that local authorities appointed auditors before the district auditor arrived on the scene and local authorities set up employment bureaus before the coming of the unemployment exchanges. The Minister of Transport has now taken over responsibility for trunk roads.

Where We Stand . . .

Defects in Administrative Areas

"Some area should be chosen as the local government unit and the larger areas should be multiples of that unit." So wrote Chalmers in 1883. Since then his vision has been clothed with some vesture. The parish forms part of the district and districts form part of the county area. An apparently symmetrical hierarchy of administrative units, however, has proved unsuitable for the unforeseen and rapid developments of recent years. Existing areas bear little or no relation to modern conditions and requirements. The Local Government Act, 1929, recognised the unsuitability of these areas for modern financial requirements by authorising county councils to bear a reasonable part of the cost of water and sewerage schemes, although this provision is related to the derating changes introduced by the Act.

At the census of 1931, excluding parishes, there were 85 local authorities with populations under 2,000. There were parishes with separate parish councils with populations as low as 37, although the effect of county reviews may have done something to correct these anomalies. The retention of small units of administration is indefensible when consideration is given to the position of authorities with populations so scanty and rateable values so inappropriate that they are unable to carry out their functions without outside assistance. Such areas are unable to provide the expert technical officers which the execution of their functions, according to modern standards, requires. They are a source of great weakness to the existing structure of local government. Fortunately, there are signs that parochialism is losing its grip on local administration and it is becoming increasingly recognised that the parish has outrun its efficiency and should be abolished.

Much of the existing system has been based upon the principle of the differing needs of rural and urban interests. In the middle of last century it may have been wisdom to have recognised this principle, but regard must now be paid to the remarkable changes in social life during the past thirty years. Towns have overspread their populations into the rural areas. Revolutionary changes in methods of transport and means of communication have not only brought the country near the town, but have transformed the character and outlook of so many rural and urban inhabitants. Even the countryfolk now want their domestic refuse removed in sanitary dustbins, and the town artisan, especially if he is out of work, demands an allotment to cultivate. The distinction between rural and urban needs has largely disappeared.

The lack of wisdom in trying to make the growing needs of modern life fit into the old local units is obvious. The old bottles will not hold the new wine. The river which is related to the work of land drainage, pollution prevention or domestic supplies will not accommodate itself to the artificial landmarks set up centuries ago for certain extraneous purposes, military or ecclesiastical as examples, which have little or nothing to do with the work of modern local government.

It is in the sphere of the public utility services that the old territorial divisions prove most of all their unsuitability to modern requirements. To change horses when crossing a stream is less illogical than to change buses when crossing the boundaries of the city of A and the borough of B. The impossibility of restricting the supply of services such as gas, water, and electricity to existing local government areas is manifest. Much greater elasticity is needed and not only have local government areas to be ignored but electricity undertakers obtain "fringe orders" to invade the territory outside their area of supply.

On the other hand, for certain purposes, an analogy can be traced between the economic law of diminishing returns and the effect of excessive centralisation. Certain counties are too cumbersome for efficient administration. The member of the authority and the official is too far removed from the centre of administration. This is a defect which even improved methods of communication cannot effectively remedy.

The following examples illustrate the wide divergencies between various areas:

The West Riding of Yorkshire has an acreage of 1,625,058. The Soke of Peterborough (53,464 acres), and the Isle of Wight (94,146 acres) are perhaps exceptional, but Rutland has an acreage of only 97,273.

Canterbury, with a population of 24,450, is a county borough, whilst Walthamstow, with a population of 132,965 is not.

Cowbridge, with a population of 1,027 is a chartered borough, whilst Rhondda with a population of 141,346, has the lower status of an urban district. (It does not make very much difference to the functions exercised, however.)

At the 1931 census the parish of Underskiddaw had a population of 37. Llantrisant parish had a population of 21,946.

For the year ending March 31st, 1936, the Rural District of Roxby-cum-Risby (Lincs.) had no necessity to raise any rates, all the expenses being met out of Government grants and balances. The following figures show the position in other extreme cases:

Local Authority	Rate in the £			Rates per head		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Oxford County Borough		7	4	3	10	0
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough	1	8	5	4	4	0
West Hartlepool County Borough		10	6	2	8	0
Westminster City Council		9	6	40	0	0
Isle of Axholme Rural District (Lincs.)		9	0		16	0

Defects in Allocation of Functions

An outstanding anacronism is the continuation of a small local body like the parish council for the administration, according to modern requirements, of such functions as water supply, street lighting, fire prevention, baths and wash-houses, libraries and public health purposes like cleansing ponds and ditches. These functions should be administered over wider areas by an authority with much larger rateable value. In days when industry has recognised so widely the need for rationalisation and centralisation, it is absurd to tolerate a disintegrated system of local administration. Why should the populations of 1901 govern for all time the disposition of powers for the control of public education?

Attention has already been directed to the lost significance of the separation of functions into rural and urban. There are now few, and from the date of operation of the Public Health Act, 1936, there will be fewer functions which can be classed separately as either rural or urban. It is merely a matter of intensity and degree, and the functions require administering universally.

The defect of size in certain counties has already been demonstrated. Where an area is so large that it needs subdivision for the administration of its functions there is a danger of lack of efficiency and possibly of economy. Too large an area has the disadvantage of submerging the spirit of individual zeal upon which initiative and progress depends. Administrative machinery, however perfectly constructed, needs the infusion of personal enthusiasm to keep it working effectively and efficiently.

Certain functions continue to be needlessly duplicated. Examples of overlapping are seen in elementary education, maintenance, and repair of roads, registration and licensing, making bye-laws, libraries, regulation of advertisements, and advances for the acquisition of small dwellings.

The Tyneside Commissioners found that, in an area about the size of Birmingham, there was a plethora of authorities wrestling with the same problems. In a length of area of about eleven miles, there are sixteen local authorities responsible for some or all of the functions of local government. Ten different authorities are responsible for education, nine maintain separate fire brigades, and six are responsible for public assistance, police roads, and some other services. There are eleven separate infectious diseases hospitals and eight for the treatment of smallpox.

The Future

Co-operation with Voluntary Agencies

There are certain communal services, such as the provision of approved schools, hospitals, blind welfare, and maternity nursing, which are still partly carried out by voluntary agencies and partly by public authorities. Section 13 of the Local Government Act, 1929, required county and county borough councils to consult with voluntary hospital authorities when making provision for hospital accommodation in respect of the duties transferred to them under that Act. It is interesting to notice how local authorities have reacted to their new duties under the Midwives Act, 1936. Some have elected to work through the agency of the voluntary nursing associations and others have set up a public domiciliary midwifery service. Voluntary associations employing, or willing to employ, salaried midwives in the area, with whom the local authorities made no proposals with a view to utilising their services, were authorised to make representations to the Minister of Health, who was empowered to direct a local authority to enter into such arrangements.

These provisions may be considered to embody the policy that, in order to avoid undue public expenditure, there should be co-operation with approved voluntary agencies undertaking functions which local authorities are responsible to provide, if necessary. This principle must be considered to apply to what follows.

Supersession of Inefficient Units

From present-day needs and trends something of future development may be anticipated. Attention has been directed to the inadequacy of existing areas for meeting modern requirements. There is likely to be an elimination of small units, except, perhaps, for the setting up of a district subsidiary to a larger unit. It has also been submitted that some counties are too large for administrative purposes. The important points to be determined are : (1) What should be the limit of an area for the efficient administration of functions under unified control ; and (2) how far should types be diversified for the most effective administration of particular functions.

It is fortunate that evidence, sifted by experts, is at the disposal of investigators into the problem in the Reports of the Onslow and Tyneside Commissioners. The latter have dealt with a practical problem and have expressed the view that the ideal area should be of sufficient size to allow the equitable distribution of benefits over the entire district, to ensure efficient administration and to secure that the local authority should have ample resources for its purposes. The Commissioners felt that the grouping of important services under one central authority would tend to attract representatives qualified and capable of undertaking the responsibilities of membership of such a body. They considered that urban and rural districts should be united so that the benefits and advantages to be derived from carrying out their services would be within the reach of all the inhabitants regardless of their environment.

The " Ad Hoc " Principle

Drawing attention to the lack of popularity for the administration of functions through joint boards and committees the Tyneside Commissioners rejected this solution of their problem although they did not go into any detailed explanation, and it must be remembered they were dealing with a specific problem.

Vast improvements in administration have been effected during recent years by the establishment of new organisations based upon the principle of joint action and have proved a valuable and indispensable element of modern administration. The establishment of a large regional authority need not exclude the principle of joint action with other areas, but should be accompanied by a greater elasticity whereby increasing use may be made of co-operation for the exercise of those functions from which further uniformity and increased economies would result. The functions suitable for this form of administration are :

i. Valuation for rating.
ii. Vagrancy.
iii. Mental treatment.
iv. Development planning.
v. Land drainage.
vi. River pollution.
vii. Smoke abatement.
viii. River conservancy.
ix. Public utility services.

The suggestions dealt with later do not exclude the possibility of setting up joint bodies for these purposes and it is presumed that in any re-consideration of the areas of local authorities the special areas brought into operation for such matters as river catchment and vagrancy would be retained.

Difficulties and Dangers of Joint Bodies

A possible danger to be guarded against in connection with the setting up of joint bodies is the weakening of the authority of the parent bodies. For this reason, the alternative of the advisory joint committee is sometimes preferred. The weakness in this case is the absence of executive power. Administration problems may be considered and common policies agreed upon and formulated for consideration of the parent bodies but authority cannot be issued for the execution of work. Local jealousy has scope for exercising its influence by " throwing a spanner in the machinery."

One of the difficulties of joint action is that there is no direct financial responsibility. Another difficulty is the question of the allocation of expenses, although this is not, of course, so great a consideration in the case of the advisory committee as in the case of executive bodies. Because of this, the system is more suitable for self-supporting services such as the public utility services. It has been enforced for electricity generation and appears to be imminent in the sphere of electricity distribution.

Advantages of Working Agreements

Where the setting up of a separate joint body is not considered expedient, the advantages of co-operative action can be secured through the agency of working agreements. Specialisation in the use of institutions can be carried a step further in this manner by the joint user of accommodation, such as for specific infectious diseases, for example, diphtheria. These working agreements may also be concluded between public and private interest such as transport services.

Mixed Undertakings

Public utility services vary so widely that it is difficult to generalise as to the most desirable form of organisation and control, but the clashing of public and private interests will probably lead to the extension of the system of mixed undertakings.

This system assists in the development of schemes on a wide regional basis. It secures definite economies in the raising of necessary capital. In times of depression, when the undertaking may have to be carried on temporarily at a loss, the element of public control facilitates the maintenance of essential services.

The danger of political considerations overriding commercial and economic considerations makes it desirable that the immediate control of certain undertakings should not be in the hands of persons responsible directly to the electorate. If there is truth in the theory that these are consumers' rather than ratepayers' or electors' services then the needs of the consumers should be paramount. There is a large body of opinion in favour of the transfer of utility services from local authority control to directorate boards representative of all interests involved. Such a system is foreshadowed in the McGowan Report for the distribution of electricity. Modern developments in gas, electricity and transport services are tending to make them free from the necessity of ratepayers' guarantees. Their deficiencies can be met by the regulation of tariffs and prices, and surpluses should go to the building up of reserves.

Extension of Centralised Administration

The movement towards greater centralisation of functions has grown considerably during recent years. Education, mental treatment, tuberculosis, venereal diseases, blind welfare, maternity and child welfare, midwifery, roads and public assistance, with certain slight modifications in some cases, have all been made county and county borough services. Attention has been directed to the inadequacy of the county as a local government area.

A New Regional Authority

Local administration in the future may quite likely involve the dissolution of all existing authorities and the reconstruction of a rational system of local government based upon newly constituted areas, although it is probable that the system will be introduced in the larger urban areas in the first instance, such as Tyneside, Clydeside, Merseyside, and Manchester. The new unit would cover a wide area having some large town as its focal centre together with its conurbation and a wide rural belt. The old county boundaries would not be permitted to prevent rational grouping of former areas round the focal centre. At least in the industrial counties, the county council would be dissolved, as the entire county would be absorbed into one or another of these regional areas. A county like Rutland might be retained as a regional area with Oakam as its focal town.

Functions of Regional Councils

The regional council would adminster over the whole area the functions classified as regional services. The functions thus classified would be (1) Education, (2) Public Health, (3) Public Assistance, (4) Mental Treatment, (5) Housing, (6) Development Planning, (7) Highways, (8) Police, (9) Fire Prevention, (10) Parks and Pleasure Grounds, (11) Valuation of Property, and (12) Public Utility Services so far as they are not transferred to special or joint boards. The relationship of the new areas to the administration of justice would be a matter for the decision of the Home Office, but it would be found convenient for each regional area to have its own court of quarter sessions. Many agencies may be utilised to secure the maximum benefits out of this enlargement of area. Joint meter readings, joint and continuous billing with joint collection of revenues for the various undertakings may be cited. If some of these services are in private hands it should not prevent co-operation along these lines. Accounts may be collected expeditiously and economically at the branches of all banks and salaries of officers paid by way of credit through the same agencies. The enlargement of the area leads to securing the maximum benefits from standardisation of requirements and central purchasing systems.

The adoption of these methods of administration, together with the vast improvement in the means of communication, has extended the limit of the size of an area suitable

for economical administration and makes economical the wide extension of large towns into regional areas.

Committee Delegation

There is likely to be an extension of the principle of delegation of responsibility to committees with regard to the services of the regional authority. This is quite a large feature of county administration to-day, the council merely confirming and co-ordinating the work of the committees.

The extension of the principle of delegation, however, increases the need for efficient control of the conduct of the work of local government. According to Mill, "there will be a tendency to wasteful expenditure under popular sentiment of various kinds," and when the incentive to economy is removed by placing the decision as to expenditure in the hands of another body than the one responsible for raising the funds, an effective method of financial control over that expenditure becomes of greater importance. Systems of financial regulations, scientific costing, audits, and financial investigations and reports provide checks which it becomes imperative to establish upon satisfactory bases under such circumstances.

District Committees

Local government services, other than those administered by the regional council, might be carried out by district authorities having jurisdiction over subdivisions of the regional area. Former areas (parishes, districts, and boroughs) should only be retained in so far as they completely fit into the new system. There have always been difficulties regarding proposals for reorganisation because of the claims of the boroughs to rights under their charters. The Tyneside Commissioners point out that history and tradition should not be a barrier to securing the maximum advantages from local administration. The functions remaining for devolution to the districts would include

i. Allotments.
ii. Burial grounds.
iii. Collection and disposal of refuse.
iv. Drainage of premises.
v. Libraries.
vi. Local recreation grounds.
vii. Provision of baths and wash-houses.
viii. Public conveniences.
ix. Registration of electors.
x. Small dwellings advances.
xi. Street cleansing.

Such district councils would take over the functions of Guardians and Relief Committees. It is probable that the system of adjudicating officers will extend generally. The membership of these district committees should be kept small to prevent unwieldiness. The regional council should be given wide powers of adjusting areas and functions of district committees within the regional area.

Devolution of National Functions

For many years there have been certain vague and indefinite proposals for the devolution of certain of the functions of the central government to regional bodies. The Local Government Act, 1888, contained provisions of a similar nature whereby certain functions of the central departments could be transferred to county councils. The only step taken in this direction has been to transfer the responsibility for the levy and collection of certain local taxation licences (mainly for dogs) to the county and county borough councils.

The abandonment of a unitary in favour of a federal system of government in this country will not be very readily accomplished. The Speaker's report on the Joint Committee of the Houses of Parliament on Devolution (April 27, 1920) contained details of a federal plan which proposed separate legislatures for England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. The conference were divided on the question as to whether the local parliaments should be composed of representatives of the Imperial Parliaments or separately elected. There were also doubts as to the method of finance to be adopted, whether a separate system of taxation, an assignment of revenues, or a direct grant system.

Such a method of devolution involves considerable duplication of services, offices, and officers. It does not seem to have produced any considerable popular enthusiasm.

A similar result could be produced without some of the disadvantages by the establishment of large provincial areas for local government purposes and the transfer to provincial authorities of those local functions which are mainly national in character and which could be more effectively administered over a wide provincial area, together with suitable functions of the central departments in relation to education, public health, police, agriculture, and public utilities. This would not only relieve pressure at the centre, but would tend towards greater uniformity over wide areas in respect of local functions.

The system of the future may therefore involve the establishment of a new heptarchy of provinces. Apart from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and London, about ten other provinces might be carved out of the country.

Transfer of Local Functions to State Departments

How far is the transfer of the functions now exercised by local bodies to national departments or bodies to extend? It has the great advantages of producing greater uniformity and spreading the burden of cost over backs better able to bear it. It meets the demand for increased state aid for those services administered by local bodies which are, or have become, national services locally administered. On the other hand, it may be doubted if it leads to any lessened cost. Removal of financial responsibility from the localities produces a demand for further elaboration.

It does not appear likely that there will be any great extension of experiments similar to the establishment of the Unemployment Assistance Board. It is probable, however, that the Board will take over the responsibility for all the able-bodied in need of public assistance, which, from the point of co-ordination and of equity, seems only rational. The control of vagrancy is also a service which might with great public advantage be entirely centralised, especially in order to control, with a view to entirely suppressing, the tramping of children and young persons about the country.

The widespread criticism with regard to the lack of uniformity in the application of the principles of the valuation of property for rating purposes, accompanied by the fact that government grants are based upon low rateable value, may very readily lead to the government taking over the responsibility for all valuation of property. Valuations are necessary for purposes of Schedule A, and there is a District Valuer of the Revenue Department for various parts of the country. Such a transfer would therefore be a co-ordinating and economical as well as an equitable step to take.

(*Continued from next column.*)

Violations of the spirit and proprieties of this great game are far too frequent. I know of few better tests of a man's temperament and character than his behaviour at the card table. I'm not quite sure whether men are not the "weaker sex" in this respect. Well, perhaps not, but yet——!

Bridge Forum

By

NEVILLE HOBSON

CHEATING

When reading that excellent journal, "The Bridge Magazine," recently, I came across an extract from an article by Ewart Kempson, who introduced his readers to "the explorative bid" and "the disguised singleton."

Explorative Bid

Mr. Kempson includes in this definition a bid in any position, either an opening bid, an over-bid, or a response. It must, however, be made in a very definite tone of interrogation. "'One Spade'! How do you fancy this, partner? I have other fish in my basket, so keep the auction going."

Disguised Singleton

In an effort to deceive the declarer, some players take a considerable time to play a singleton. This, says Mr. Kempson, is "a most vulgar form of cheating, but it is even more nauseating when the defender first pulls out a card, then puts it back and produces a singleton." He goes on to emphasize that players are not asked to play singletons at rapid speed to show that they are singletons; all they are asked to do is to refrain from the above-mentioned hesitation, because it is most unethical.

Cheating

It is significant that Mr. A. E. Manning-Foster, as the Editor of "The Bridge Magazine," introduces these two sets of notes under the heading "Cheating." That is what it really is, and too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the impropriety of it all.

It is strange how many extraordinarily decent people—in most other walks of life—permit themselves to cheat at Bridge. Only a few weeks ago I saw one of the senior officials of an important authority indulge in a glaring and informative facial expression, merely because his partner was obviously contemplating taking out a double into another suit. As a matter of fact the take-out was a sound one, as—though the double would, in fact, have succeeded by one trick—it was probable from his partner's hand that a take-out would be preferable. It was to the credit of the partner that he refused to be influenced by the obvious desire of the other player that the double should be left in.

If either of the opponents of the player in question had written a message on the back of their scoring pad, asking their partner to do or not to do any particular thing, he would have been so outraged as to decline to play in such a set. Why do intelligent people forget that they are doing something which is just as clear and equally contrary to the principles of the game? These demand that all bids should be made in an even and normal way, and that no information of any kind should be given to one's partner, apart from the significance of the declaration itself.

(*Continued at base of previous column.*)

Summer School at St. Andrew's

The Seventh

A group of the students and speakers at the opening of the Summer School at St. Andrews outside the St. Salvator's Hall of Residence where the students resided. *Front row (left to right)* Robert Gardner, J. M. Mortimer, Lord Provost Watt, the Lady Provost, A. G. M. Archibald, Mrs. Campbell, Peter Pettigrew, John Campbell and Mrs. Pettigrew.

OUR Seventh Summer School at St. Andrews University was held a week later than in past years and the change, so far as weather was concerned, was not for the better. In every other respect, however, the school was a great success.

At the Inaugural Dinner on July 3, Mr. A. G. M. Archibald, chairman of the Scottish district, presided, and he was accompanied by Lord Provost Watt, of Aberdeen; Mrs. Watt; Provost Reid, of St. Andrews; Mr. J. Cargill Cantley, Town Clerk, St. Andrews; Mr. J. Henderson Stewart, M.P.; and Messrs. P. Pettigrew, Glasgow; J. Campbell, Stirling; W. Wilson, Chief Public Assistance Office, Fife; and J. M. Mortimer, Scottish Secretary.

Mr. Archibald conveyed apologies from Sir James Irving, Principal of the University; Mr. W. W. Armitage, President of the Association; Mr. John Chaston, chairman of the Education Committee; Mr. Dingle Foot, M.P., Dundee; and Mr. J. M. Mitchell, County Clerk of Fife.

In introducing Lord Provost Watt, he complimented him on having raised £100,000 for the Aberdeen Infirmary this year.

DEEPLY INTERESTING WEEK

Lord Provost Watt said it was really not necessary for him to say much. People who were there did not require to have their interest stimulated; they were there because they were really interested in their work and desirous of increasing their knowledge of it. He had seen their syllabus and gathered they were going to have a deeply interesting week. He was sure, too, that they would have a very pleasant time in St. Andrews, one of the most delightful spots in the whole of Scotland.

COUNCILLORS ELIGIBLE—NONE PRESENT

He noticed that members of the local governing bodies were eligible to attend the school, but he did not notice any present. It was rather regrettable—(laughter)—because there undoubtedly were many members of councils who required education in local government. All interested in the administration of local government in Great Britain, he noticed, were also invited, and he presumed that included M.P.'s (laughter).

Everyone engaged in public life recognised the growing importance of local government. An enormous amount of work was being put on local administrative bodies, particularly as a result of the 1929 Act.

A COMPLEX BUSINESS

The fact that the work of local government was becoming so complex made it essential and urgent that they should have men who were thoroughly qualified, men who had studied the questions which they would be called upon to deal with, and who would be able to deal with them in a methodical and efficient manner. And he thought that was the object of that school.

ESSENTIAL CO-OPERATION

Another aspect of the work was the relations between the local governing bodies and the central Government departments. There was no doubt at all that a much closer co-operation was needed, and the closer that co-operation the better it would be for everyone concerned.

AND ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

It was only right that a knowledge of local government ramifications should be obtained by all. He was not one of those who thought that a local government officer should stick to his job and be kept in a water-tight cabin. It did one good to know what the officers in other departments were doing and the problems they had to face. He wished their school every success.

COUNCILS HAMPERED BY "KNOW-ALLS"

Provost Reid, after offering a welcome to those who had come to attend the school, said he would like to see a similar school for Town Councillors. Town Councils were often hampered by the chap who thought he knew all. Here was a school which existed to see that the man who did know something might know even more. He was not casting any reflection on the men who had served burghs in the past, but there they had something which these men had lacked—**the interchange of thoughts and ideas from which they were bound to benefit.**

Mr. J. Campbell, Chief Public Assistance Officer, Stirlingshire, moved a vote of thanks to Lord Provost Watt. In doing so he said the aim of the school was to make better the local government in this country. The Association were having three schools this summer—that one in St. Andrews, one in England, and a third in Paris dealing with education. The higher standard their members attained, the better it would be for everyone in these islands, for their work affected them all.

Mr. Henderson Stewart, moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, said that were it not for the efficient work of the members of the National Association of Local Government Officers, the work of local administration would be imperfectly performed.

The Chairman announced that the J. E. Highton (Class I) prize had been won by J. M. Bateman, Alva; Class II prize by R. A. Nixon, B.L., Glasgow; the National Association prize of £10 by James Stewart, Paisley, in recognition of his taking second place in Great Britain in the Board of Trade Weights and Measures examination. He thanked the university authorities and the Warden of the hostel for granting them facilities for the school.

Stockholm

How It Is Governed

The first session of the school, on Monday morning, was devoted to a lecture on local government in Stockholm, which was delivered by Dr. W. A. Robson, Reader in Administrative Law at the University of London.

Stockholm is governed by a City Council of 100 members. The most important feature of the municipal administration is the Stadskollegiet, or Executive Committee. The members of the Stadskollegiet act as Chairmen of Committees and direct the broad lines of policy, leaving the ordinary chief officers of the various departments to carry on their day-to-day work in the same way as in a British Local Authority.

PLANNING AHEAD

There are numerous committees relating to the different functions, but the Stadskollegiet concentrates responsibility and leadership as a whole in a most effective way.

The greatest achievement of the City Council is the admirable manner in which the city has been planned. The boundaries have now been enlarged and the city possesses about 20,000 acres of garden suburbs within a few miles of the centre.

An interesting discussion followed, and Dr. Robson answered a large number of questions.

Moscow

How They Do Things

Dr. Robson, continuing his survey of European capitals from the point of view of municipal government, on Tuesday, dealt with the city government of Moscow.

He began by pointing out the great importance, from the point of view of municipal administration, of three features of the Soviet Union. First the absence of unemployment; second, the public ownership of lands and buildings; third, planned economy, both as regards territorial planning and economic production.

The principal governing body of Moscow is the Mossoviet. This consists of a fluctuating number of members elected at the rate of one for every 1,500 electors, grouped in vocational constituencies, such as factories, offices, army units, and so forth.

THE SUPREME CONTROL

The supreme administrative control is in the hands of the presidium, which consists of 15 persons elected by the full assembly from among their own members. The presidium meets every few days and resembles in some ways the British Cabinet.

The Mossoviet is divided into sections, which correspond to some extent to the British system of committees in local government, except that the sections are much larger, but far less powerful. Thus, the public health section consists of no fewer than 1,600 persons, of whom 600 are councillors and the remaining 1,000 "activists," i.e, enthusiastic individuals anxious to give their time and attention to promoting the public health work of the city. These sections enable a very large proportion of the citizens to participate in the work of the City Council, and they serve as active lines of communication between the Mossoviet and the masses.

The Mossoviet is engaged in a much greater range of functions than a City Council in Great Britain. The general rule which runs through the whole system is that local authorities are free to engage in whatsoever activities they desire, so long as they obey the directions of the higher authorities and do not act contrary to the general policy laid down from above. Moreover, every governing body must carry out the national Five Year Plan and is always liable to interference from above.

In conclusion, Dr. Robson described in some detail the Ten Year Plan for the reconstruction of Moscow. This is a most ambitious scheme, which involves not merely territorial control, but also the entire reconstruction of the city as regards highways, housing, the provision of cinemas, schools, hospitals, grain elevators, food factories, etc. It calls for extensive works in connection with water, and gas supply, and sewage and drainage. The great new Moscow Volga Canal, almost as large as the Panama Canal, is nearly complete, and links up Moscow with four seas —White, Baltic, Caspian, and Black. This Ten Year Plan will make Moscow the only completely planned city in the world.

How Nuisance Became An Asset

The after-dinner talk on Tuesday was given by Mr. Robert G. W. Eadie, B.Sc., F.I.C., manager of the Glasgow Corporation Provan Chemical Works. His subject was "An Outline of a Technical Department," and he dealt in a popular manner with the scientific control of the manufacture of coal tar and ammonia by-products. The present-day use of coal tar oils contrasted surprisingly with the state of affairs about half a century ago, **when coal tar was little more than a trade nuisance to a city gas undertaking.**

London

On Wednesday Dr. Robson spoke on the municipal government of London. He began by tracing the history of the local authorities in the Metropolis, beginning with the Corporation of the City of London, which has jurisdiction over the square mile which constitutes the wealthy financial centre. The City Corporation was a relic of medieval times.

GREAT POPULATION WAVE

A great population wave, consisting of nearly three-quarters of a million workers, flowed into the London County area on each working day and had to be provided with costly day services by the London County Council, but these workers departed at night to low-rated areas outside the county boundary. The greatest defect which now existed was the absence of any town planning scheme for the Metropolitan region in which a vast amount of unplanned and misdirected development had taken place since 1918.

GRID WATER SYSTEM ?

Mr. George Baxter, jun., A.M.I.C.E., Water Engineer, Dundee, addressed Wednesday evening's session on the subject of "Water Supply." He stated that the standard of purity in the water supply had risen very considerably in the past few years. There had also been an enormous increase in the quantity of water supplied per head of the community. He dealt with the sources of supply and with the different systems or types of supply. He explained at some length the system of filtration and purification.

Berlin

Thursday morning was devoted to a lecture on the administration of Berlin by Mr. Charles H. Wilson, M.A., lecturer in Political Science, London School of Economics.

The lecturer began by pointing out that the city government of Berlin, in its reorganised form under the Act of 1936, could only be understood in terms of the change over of general political opinion which underlay the re-organization. **That change over had been from democracy to autocracy, from a system of decision by a majority vote to a system of leadership decision.** Thus, in the Government of Berlin under the Weimar regime there had been an electorate, an elected City Council of 225 members, and an elected Chief Burgomaster. Under the new constitution of 1936, there was no longer any electorate, and no longer any elected City Council. The Chief Burgomaster was centrally appointed by the Minister of the Interior.

RELATION TO NAZI PARTY

The relation of the city government to the Nazi Party was preserved by a provision in the Act which obliged the Chief Burgomaster to collaborate with the Chief Party Officer for Berlin in all important decisions. This authoritarian regime in Berlin merely reflected the tendency towards centralisation of power in the nation as a whole. The centralisation of power was quite simply achieved by purging the municipal service of all undesirable persons.

The lecturer concluded by pointing out that under such an authoritarian leadership system, the success or failure of the administration depended pre-eminently on the professional ability and personal character of those appointed.

THE STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

On Thursday evening, Mr. Seggie spoke on "State and Local Authority Partnership in Housing Finance." He drew attention to the new features in the relationship between the State and Local Authority as constituted by the provisions of the 1935 Housing Act. In particular, he elaborated on the Housing Revenue Account instituted under that Act, showing how the surpluses had arisen in Scotland, and, at the same time, pointing out how those surpluses had to be disposed of.

Paris

Paris Problems

Mr. C. H. Wilson, delivering the final lecture, said the government of Paris, which in population was larger than any other ten cities in France, was a form of prefectural government. The government of Paris was a cross between democratic and autocratic.

Not only was Paris the capital, but it was also the centre each year for 1½ million visitors the majority of whom came from overseas. Thus the consideration of the enormous population and the enormous budget—4 milliards francs—of the city, made it impossible for the Government to relinquish the centralisation direction of the municipality.

(*For prizewinners see page* 209.)

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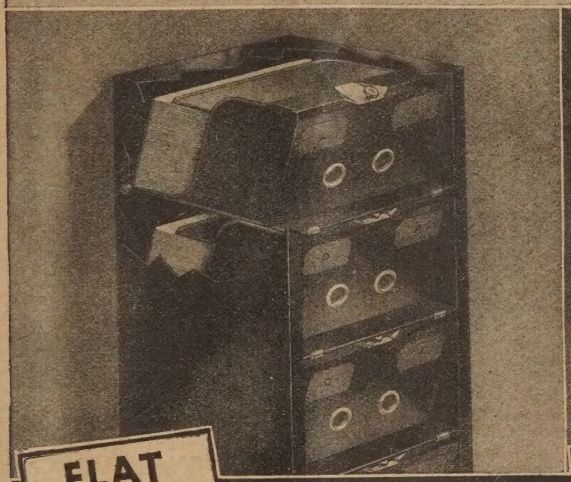

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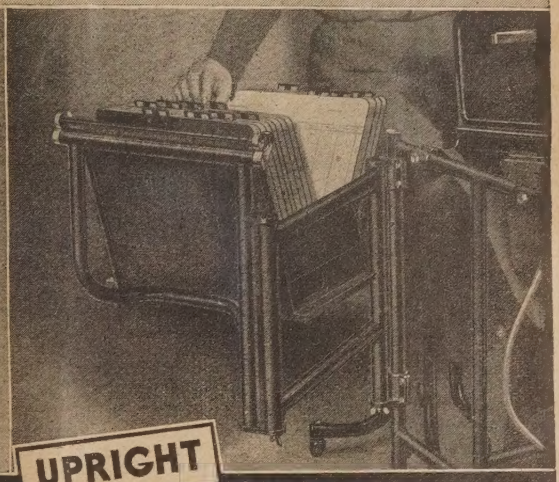

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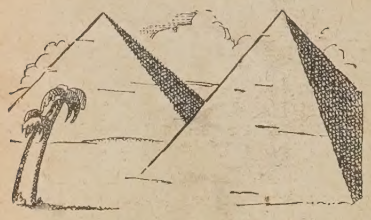

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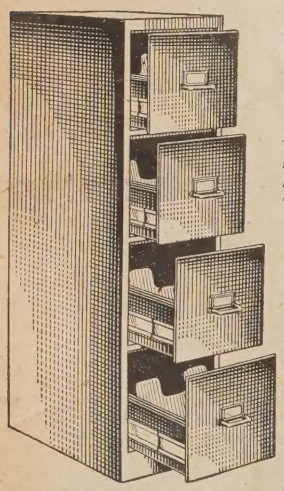

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02

General Literature

By JONAS PRAPS

MEN AND COUNTRIES

Two books recently published give graphic pictures of the court life of France in the days of Louis XV and Louis XVI. Margaret Trouncer in "**The Pompadour**" (Faber, 15s.) tells the story of the rise and influence of the mistress of Louis XV, and the picture is completed by Mrs. N. H. Webster in "Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette before the Revolution" (Constable, 18s.). Mrs. Webster has made a special study of the period.—Arthur Bryant's "**Stanley Baldwin**" (Hamilton, 3s. 6d.) is just sufficient to satisfy the average reader's desire to know something of the man who has controlled the destinies of England for so long and his intent politically. The writer knows his subject intimately and writes appreciatively.—The lure of Arabia has gripped R. H. Kiernan—not just Lawrence, but the many enthusiastic travellers who have endeavoured to probe its secrets and traverse its desert vastness. Starting with ancient times when Roman legions sought its wealth, through the Middle Ages—the times of Pilgrimages—down to the quite recent adventures of Philby and Thomas. Mr. Kiernan in "**The Unveiling of Arabia**" (Harrap, 12s. 6d.) links the extracts from the accounts of many journeys with personal narrative very skilfully.—World interest in military matters has moved from Abyssinia to Spain, but Herbert Mathews in "**Eye Witness in Abyssinia**" (Secker, 12s. 6d.) reminds us of this chapter in history and recalls the main features of the Italian campaign of conquest. A journalist of repute, he followed the progress of events from Naples to the occupation of Addis Ababa. This account proves that it was by no means a picnic and he had many hair-breadth escapes.—Vittorio Rossi has a delightful descriptive style, is quaintly quizzical in his evaluation of human beings, particularly politicians of the Jingo type, and has an observing eye. This preamble should lead you to the reading of "**Spaniards' Way**" (Joseph, 8s. 6d.). Nothing whatever to do with war, it is a pleasing record of a very interesting tour in the Canaries and the major portion of Spain.—The story of England has been told in many ways, but seldom so effectively and interestingly as in "**The English Heritage,**" by Rex W. Finn (Heinemann, 7s. 6d.). The author's title defines his intent; to recount the main incidents of our historic past and associate them with results to the present day. The book is well illustrated.—"**Ordeal in England,**" by Sir Philip Gibbs (Heinemann, 8s. 6d.), is a picture of modern England, in effect a continuance of the author's "England Speaks." He tells of what is happening behind the scenes in town and country, social and industrial centres, behind the political doors and in many out of the way places where English thought is moulded and its inner life revealed.—One of the most intimately personal records of experiences of the horrible effects of war is "**Death in the Morning,**" by Helen Nicholson (Loval Dickson, 5s.): the author's married title is the Baroness Zglinitski. She is an experienced writer and close observer and her story of the Spanish Civil War in 1936, chiefly in Granada, is distressingly realistic. The fact that it is a civil war and not one between contending nations adds to the sadness of many of the incidents related.

FICTION

Recent fiction of interest includes "**They Found Him Dead**" (Hodder, 7s. 6d.), in which Georgette Heyer leaves the historical field and reverts to the thriller type. "People do fall over cliffs on foggy nights," and this succinct sentence indicates the theme.—Dorothy L. Sayers mixes a little love with her latest detective story entitled "**Busman's Honeymoon**" (Gollancz, 8s. 6d.). Lord Peter Wimsey is there, of course, in this break-away from the recognised convention in thrillers.—"Sapper" returns to the 'Bulldog Drummond' type in "**Challenge**" (Hodder, 7s. 6d.): a Secret Service story.

Also amongst the New Publications

"**The Scrap Book of London River,**" by A. G. Thompson, a member of the Port of London Authority Branch of N.A.L.G.O., is a companion volume to "The Romance of London River," which was reviewed in this journal in 1934.

Although Mr. Thompson admits in his introduction that the Thames, with its 2,000 years of history and its annual shipping tonnage of 60,000,000 N.R.T., will never be fully chronicled, he has made a very successful attempt to extract many matters of interest and romance from its history and collate them in simple form. The book is instructive and historic, yet amusing and light in style. The series of illustrations by Helen McKie assists in conveying the scrap-book atmosphere, whilst a delightful foreword by the Reverend P. B. Clayton, Vicar of All Hallows and Founder Padre of Toc H (who doesn't miss the opportunity of referring to Tower Hill) contributes to the general cheerfulness. The price is 1s. and the book is published by Bradley & Son, Ltd., of 115, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.

"**A Concise English Course**" has been prepared by A. R. Moon, M.A. Lond., A.K.C., and published by Longmans, Green & Co. The price is 2s. 6d. The book deals with the most important parts of the school syllabus in English composition, comprehension testing and grammar. It is not intended as a textbook for any particular examination, but it will be found useful for students preparing for Matriculation, School Certificate, Civil Service, R.S.A., and London Chamber of Commerce Examinations. Apart from its value to the student the wealth of example and the frequent opportunity afforded for the reader to exercise his own judgment makes it a valuable addition to every bookshelf.

Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd. have issued the third edition of "**Annuity and Loan Redemption Tables,**" by T. K. Stubbins, F.C.A. and Harold Dougharty, F.C.I.S., A.I.A. The date of publication was June 29, 1937, and the price of the book 6s. It was designed to meet the needs of Local Government Officers in calculations relating to House Purchase, Loans redeemable by monthly, quarterly or half-yearly instalments on the annuity plan, Hire Purchase, and the like.

Lugano

The land for lazing

Photos : Rüedi

Above is a view of San Salvatore and Paradiso from Castagnola.

To the left is a view of Lugano Centrale and Monte Bre.

IF it is warm on your first day at Lugano you will want to be lazy. You will find yourself staring languidly into the clear waters of the lake watching the shoals of fish at their mass manœuvres for food, or you will sit absent-mindedly in a deck chair watching the hawks volplaning and circling overhead, silently and (for the fish below) dangerously. If you are lucky you will be treated to an exhibition of aerobatics, for the hawks are masters at falling from the sky to the surface of the water, to hover, strike, and fly off with a streak of silver between their beaks. You will feel completely in mood with the black-eyed signorina who slouches barefooted over the cobbled path to snatch a grape from the vine overhead and chew it ruminatingly.

Such incidents constitute a first impression of Lugano, but it is an impression that is quite incomplete. The mountains, as yet, are quite ethereal. They belong to the landscape. Only San Salvatore is at all real. He stands as a sentinel at the lakeside with Paradiso at his feet. If you take a funicular to the top of San Salvatore and from there climb a little to the roof of a church that provides a grey cap for Salvatore's pate you will obtain an excellent view of Lugano, Paradiso, and Castagnola, and the surrounding altitudes. Lugano is stretched round the lake very much in the shape of a sleeping dog.

Castagnola is at the foot of Monte Bré, which is the nearest promontory visible from Paradiso. But Bré looks most imposing at night, when he is decked by the twinkling lights of divers châlets and hotels. The mountain railway which can take you to the summit is illuminated at night, and from the other side of the lake appears to lie upon his chest like the chain of office of a mayor. A flood-lit church as a starlike pendant completes the illusion.

Between Castagnola and Paradiso in Lugano centrale is the bathing beach, or lido (to which members of the N.A.L.G.O. party have a free pass). There you can sit in the shade of gay-coloured parasols or dip your body in the refreshing waters of the lake, which are not so warm as might be expected. It is noticeable when swimming that the water is warm and cold in patches. This has a most invigorating effect upon the frame.

Lugano is not always docile. Sometimes clouds hang low over the mountains, obliterating them from view, lightning flashes and thunder echoes up the valleys, rain sweeps down in sheets whipping the surface of the lake into a tumult. Yet in a very short space of time, as if under the direction of some Divine scene-changer, the greyness breaks, the clouds go scudding up the hillsides like panicked goats, the sky explodes into blueness, and in a little while the lizards creep out from under the begonias, close their skinny eyes, and lay their bellies on the hot stone, and sleep. Then the oleanders, the rhododendrons, the hydrangeas, and the fuchsias unload their perfumes on the sweet air. Then the blossoms on the magnolia tree glisten like giant water-lilies stolen from the pond and given exalted positions on the tree-tops.

These doses of rain and sunshine are administered at frequent intervals. Lugano is said to have the highest percentage of sunshine and rain of all places in Europe. The town presents a spotless appearance. Mother Nature gets out her bucket and broom so frequently that the streets are free from any trace of dirt. Even in the market place, where in the early hours oxen pull about the cumbrous market carts, the atmosphere of spotlessness maintains. A necessary accessory to the cyclist's equipment is an umbrella. During a wet spell the butcher boy rides with his umbrella in full sail. Alternatively, they may be used as sunshades.

The Swiss hotels are as good as anything our country can offer. The hotels specially recommended by N.A.L.G.O. have been inspected by a N.A.L.G.O. official and can be relied upon thoroughly. Somebody will be bound to tell you of the time when every hotel on the lakeside was boasting by poster, banner, and illuminated sign that hot and cold running water had been installed in every room. At this time English hotels had not yet evolved from the jug-and-basin era.

Many inviting trips have been arranged. Members of the N.A.L.G.O. parties can obtain specially reduced rates from the N.A.L.G.O. agent. Other agents know immediately that you are English and speak to you in your own tongue without a quick-fire preamble of "*bonsoirs*," "*guten Abends*," or "*buona seras*" to discover your nationality. It is a trifle uncanny. One hopes one does not *look* pig-headed.

The day's excursion to Milan is perhaps the most ambitious. There, overshadowing all else, is the world-famous cathedral, the third largest in Europe. The foundation was laid in 1386, and it was at last completed by order of Napoleon in 1812. Gothic in style, there are more than three thousand statues in its honeycomb of niches. Included in this tour is a visit to Church Santa Maria Delle Grazie, where is the famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci—The Last Supper.

Villa Carlotta is well worth inspection. Apart from the villa itself, the grounds in which it stands are peculiarly luxuriant in flora. In the gardens you can see oranges, lemons, limes, bananas, and pomegranates growing in profusion. Giant trees—pine and palm—from California and Mexico are objects of special instruction by the guide. Orchids, lilies, and giant fuchsias swing in pots from overhead boughs. Curious plants, sensitive to touch, close their leaves and feign death if you snatch at them.

Como, Bellagio, and Tremezzo, on Lake Como, are typical of Italy.

Monte Generoso, just visible from Paradiso, is a whole day's trip. On a clear day many of Switzerland's peaks are visible from the summit, including the Monte Rosa group.

Campione, with its Italian casino (where there is no restriction on the amount of bets placed, as in Switzerland), is imbued with an air of artificiality quite foreign to Switzerland. Morcote, where you can climb—surely, more than two hundred steps—to the church above, is opposite the Italian frontier, which runs through the middle of the lake. In the church you will hear the drone of the priest's voice in prayer or the whisper of the nun at her confession.

Gandria is the prettiest of all. It huddles on the very brink of the water, nestling under the wing of Monte Bré and looking rather scared lest one day it should let go its hold and topple into the water. Every day is washday here. Young women tuck up their skirts and kneel over their washboards, doing homage to the god of hygiene. They have borrowed a bit of municipal organisation from England, for they all do their washing together at a convenient spot, probably in much the same way as their sisters in Lambeth.

J. C. S.

Paris Summer School

THE experiment of holding a Nalgo Summer School abroad has proved eminently successful. Students who were privileged to attend the school spent a most enjoyable and instructive week in Paris. In the space of a short report it is hardly possible to convey the opportunities afforded to students for a study of Local Government problems abroad. The enthusiasm with which students received the lectures and the innumerable questions asked of our guides were most encouraging. It was not a "joy-ride" but, between pleasures snatched during the all-too-few leisure hours, a persistent search for knowledge which was almost too inquisitorial. Much information was gleaned and it is hoped through the Metropolitan District Area Education Committee to publish full notes of the lectures and, what is perhaps even of greater interest, notes on the visits paid to various local government institutions and centres. The booklet should be an excellent introduction to the study of public administration in France and of immense interest to those who were unable to attend the school.

A party of 40 students left London on July 3 for the Collège Franco-Britannique, Cité Universitaire, where the students were housed.

A group of students on the steps of the Collège

Cité Universitaire

At lunch on Sunday Monsieur A. Desclos, the Director of the Collège Franco-Britannique, gave a short address to the students on the aims of the Cité Universitaire and outlined its foundation. He said that immediately after the War there was a great influx of students to Paris. Many students who had previously visited Germany for the purpose of study now came to Paris, the sons of the "nouveau-riche" also came, and the student circles in Paris became congested. There was a paucity of accommodation, and as French universities are non-residential, many students were housed in exceedingly poor conditions. Monsieur Deutsch de la Meurthe, a benefactor, offered the Rector of the University ten million francs to build a place of residence where 300 poor students might find cheap and healthy lodging with good food. The Rector reported the offer to the Minister of Education, Senator Honnorat, who said "A home for 300 French students. What an admirable idea! Homes for 3,000 students of all nationalities, that would be better still!" Negotiations were started, and now almost every country has a representative house in the Cité Universitaire, the Collège Franco-Britannique being a recent addition. Indeed, the college was formally inaugurated on Friday, July 16, by M. Lebrun, President of the French Republic, when many persons distinguished in the world of Education were present.

The Collège Franco-Britannique, where the students were housed

The President of the Association, Mr. W. W. Armitage, Principal Assistant, Water Works Office, Sheffield, addressed the students at dinner on Sunday night, and expressed the hope that the Summer Schools movement would continue to receive support and expressed his gratification that the first Summer School abroad had been received with such enthusiasm. The Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. J. Chaston, F.C.I.S., F.S.S., Clerk of the Kettering Urban District Council, said that the Education Committee were constantly striving to extend their policy, and that they appreciated the immense value of the Summer Schools movement and particularly the opportunities which would arise for a study of French Public Administration at first hand. Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, M.B.E., the Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, encouraged the students to take every opportunity of studying public administration in all its phases and expressed the hope that they would gain much benefit and pleasure from attendance at the Paris Summer School.

The Lectures

The Lectures were divided into two Groups. The first Group included the following subjects: 1. Administration of the City of Paris; 2. History of the Development of French Public Administration; 3. French Centralisation; 4. French Municipal Government; 5. Present-Day Problems in French Public Administration. This Group of lectures was delivered by Paul Vaucher, Esq., D. ès L. Agrégé de l'Université de Paris, Professor of Modern French History and Institutions in the University of London; Secretary of the Council of Social Research in the University of Paris.

Professor Vaucher, during the course of his five lectures, outlined the whole system of French public administration and stressed particularly the fact that centralisation was its main feature. In truly French logical method he dealt with the position of the State and then outlined the functions and duties of the départements, arrondissements and communes. He also gave a detailed description of the administration of the City of Paris, drawing attention to the fact that the administration of the City differed from the system operating in the rest of the country. His tracing of the history of the development of public administration in France gave the students an admirable survey of the historical background, thus enabling them to appreciate

how the present-day system had evolved. In concluding the series of lectures, Professor Vaucher dealt with current problems in public administration in France. He dealt with local finance reform, pointing out that the expenses of the administrative units had enormously increased since the War, and he discussed the various methods suggested for financing administration.

He dealt with the criticisms occasionally levelled at the centralised system in France, but he believed that bureaucracy had been a stabilising factor in ministerial instability.

He outlined the various criticisms that had been made, but said that the experts felt that France had no need for much more de-centralisation in public administration. He also criticised the present administrative areas in France and outlined possible developments in this direction dealing with the problem of how far local authorities should have economic unity.

Public Health

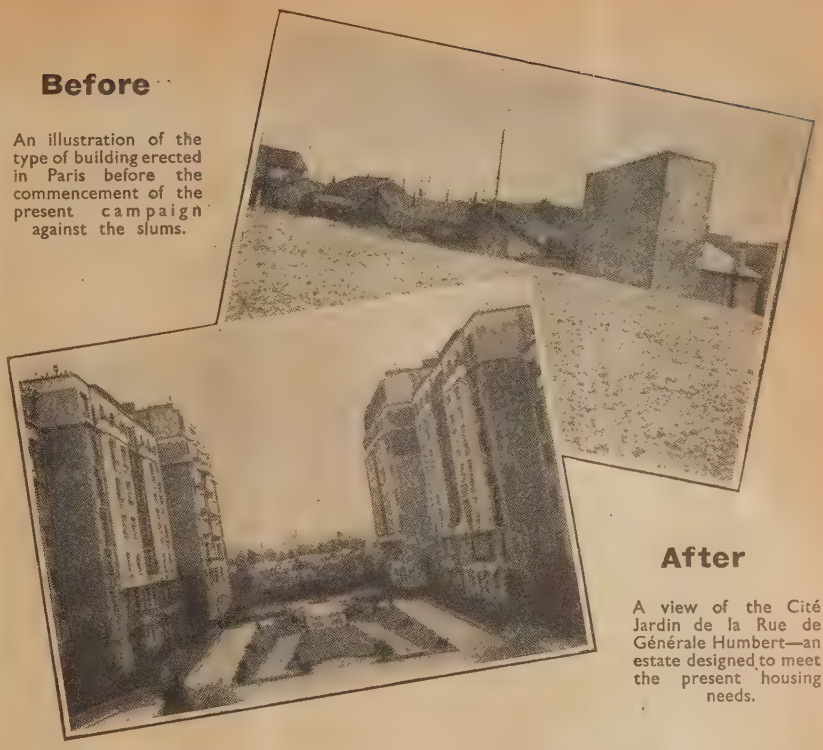
The second Group of lectures were related to special aspects of administration. The first lecture in the second Group was delivered by Dr. R. H. Hazemann, Médecin Inspecteur de l'Office Public d'Hygiène Sociale de la Seine. Dr. Hazemann explained that Public Health powers were vested in the Maire in the various communes. He pointed out that the central department for public health was only administrative and that the ministry was divided into two parts, one dealing with public health and the other with relief. There were two great boards, one for public health and one for public assistance. He pointed out that the conception of public health had changed considerably since the War. In pre-War years officers were not required to have technical ability. Pasteur's great attention to germs had evolved a system of public health which undertook to fight against germs by means of fumigation, building regulations, and so forth. The conception changed, and public health is now "hygiène-sociale." Baby clinics, maternity and child welfare centres, T.B. clinics, and services of this nature have been provided. He said that there were practically no private hospitals and that all hospitals were under the control of central boards.

The second lecture in Group 2 was delivered by Monsieur M. Gaussen, Archiviste de l'administration générale.

Public Assistance

Dr. Gaussen particularly stressed two features which characterised Public Assistance in France, namely, that it is based upon the principle of the *right* to assistance, and that it is provided by clearly defined public bodies according to rules fixed by law. In dealing with the history of the evolution of public assistance, Dr. Gaussen said that the present conception found its origin in the French Revolution and the first French constitution recognised as an inalienable right "the rights arising from misfortune and poverty." He then outlined the whole system of administration of public assistance in France, detailing the people who were eligible for assistance, and the method for dealing with claims for assistance.

The third lecture in the Group dealt with French Housing Problems and was delivered by Monsieur William Oualid, Professeur à la Faculté de Droit. Professor Oualid dealt with the problems created in post-War France by reason of the influx of large numbers of the population in the post-War years, the cessation of building during the War period, the destruction of houses during the War, and also many problems which are common to France and England.



Before

An illustration of the type of building erected in Paris before the commencement of the present campaign against the slums.

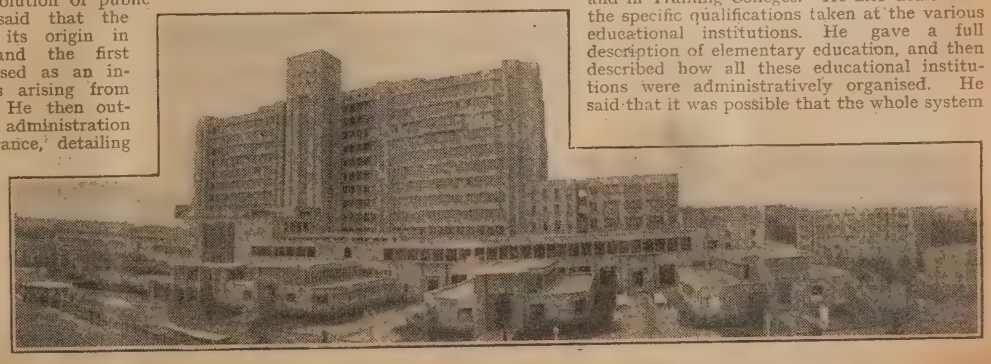
After

A view of the Cité Jardin de la Rue de Générale Humbert—an estate designed to meet the present housing needs.

Housing

In great detail he supplied statistics illustrating the various problems presented to French administrators, and then outlined the work of the Institut D'Urbanism, and the efforts which had been made to deal with what had become exceedingly difficult problems. He also made reference to the various housing estates which had been built and in considerable detail dealt with the financing of such housing schemes.

The fourth lecture in Group 2, relating to the State System of Education in France, was delivered by M. A. Desclos, Director of the Collège Franco-Britannique. In a most interesting introduction M. Desclos defined clearly the Frenchman's conception of education. He traced the history of the evolution of educational administration and stressed the fact that education was the concern of the central and not the local authority. He pointed out that France had no Reformation; that education was begun in the Middle Ages by the Catholic Church, and that education quickly became universal and was conceived as the preparation for the life to come. He explained that even to-day the doctrine was still fundamentally spiritual, that education was designed not to produce the specialist, but to produce "l'hounête homme"—the cultured gentleman. The essence of the system was to preserve culture, which he defined as knowledge digested and transmuted into power. He then proceeded to describe the present system of administration in France, showing how the system was arranged as it were in two vertical divisions. He dealt with the education of boys between the ages of 11 and 18 at the Secondary Schools, with education at the Lycées and Colleges, which were still in existence, with education at the University and in Training Colleges. He also dealt with the specific qualifications taken at the various educational institutions. He gave a full description of elementary education, and then described how all these educational institutions were administratively organised. He said that it was possible that the whole system



The students visited l'hopital Beaujon. Here is the front view of the hospital, which extends over 1,155 feet. There are over 2,000 windows in the main body of the hospital. In the foreground are six independent consultation clinics.

The open-air school at Suresnes

Visits of Interest

of French educational administration might be changed if suggestions which had been made were put into operation, and that the new system, if adopted, would remove the "vertical" system of education, substituting therefor a "horizontal" system.

In connection with all the lectures, visits of special interest to various local government institutions and centres were arranged. The students paid a visit to the Chambre des Députés and the Hôtel de Ville on the afternoon of Monday, July 5.

On Tuesday, the students were conducted round the Hospital Beaujon, where they had ample opportunity of questioning Monsieur R. Plattard with regard to the administration of the hospital. Questions of every conceivable aspect of the administration of the hospital, the staffing, method of obtaining stores, costing, and so on, were asked by the students, and a most interesting tour of the hospital was made.

On Wednesday afternoon students visited the Cité Jardin de Chatenay-Malabry. Students representing all departments asked numerous questions with regard to the lay-out, costs, and the administration of this huge estate, housing so many French people, and being one of the newest and most progressive of the housing estates undertaken in France. This garden city is not for working-class people, but provides for the lower middle class, and rents vary according to the size of the family.

On Thursday afternoon students visited the Marie Curie Lycée, and the municipal schools of Suresne, where a kindergarten and open-air school have recently been built. M. Desclos accompanied the students and personally conducted them over the schools. Particular interest was shown in the special nursery schools and open-air schools for children who were below normal health.

Many students took the opportunity of visiting the International Exhibition.

A vote of thanks was given to the Director of the College and also to the individual lecturers. The students expressed appreciation of the arrangements made in connection with the School and of the educational benefit obtained by the opportunities afforded to them of visiting Paris and of studying in detail schemes connected with French public administration, and expressed their thanks to Mr. H. Slater, B.Sc. (Econ.), F.C.I.S., Education Secretary, who was responsible for the organisation and administration of the School.

In Memoriam

Members will learn with very deep regret that Mr. A. W. Webb, Sub-Librarian of Brighton, died on Monday, July 19, 1937. Mr. Webb had been seriously ill for two weeks before two seizures brought him to an untimely death.

In March, 1936, he was obliged, under doctor's orders, to retire from the National Executive Council of N.A.L.G.O. and to give up everything outside his official duties.

Previous to this, Mr. Webb had been connected with the Brighton Branch since his return from service with the Forces of the Crown in 1919.

He secured a junior appointment at Brighton in 1903, became senior assistant in 1906, chief assistant in 1909, reference librarian in 1919, and sub-librarian in 1935.

He was elected vice-chairman of Brighton Branch in 1920, and soon afterwards he was elected chairman, an office which he held with distinction until 1923, when he was elected Secretary of the Branch.

The funeral took place at St. Wilfred's Church, Brighton, on July 24. His wide circle of friends will treasure the memory of his comradeship and his counsels.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

List showing the Candidates who passed the Association's Examinations held in May, 1937

INTERMEDIATE GRADE

1	Bacon, S. L. ...	Treasurer's ...	Harrogate B.C.
8	Broomhead, J. R.	Clerk's ...	Somerset C.C.
9	Brown, R. J. ...	Health	Bristol B.C.
11	Buckley, F. H. ...	Clerk's	Whitefield U.D.C.
13	Burbidge, G. F. ...	Treasurer's ...	Barking B.C.
14	Butler, J. A. ...	Electricity ...	Harrogate B.C.
16	Carroll, J. ...	Education ...	W. Riding C.C.
18	Connor, J. J. ...	Treasurer's ...	Hants C.C.
22	Cullum, F. ...	Juvenile Employment Bureau	Lancaster B.C.
25	Davies, C. E. ...	Clerk's ...	Crayford U.D.C.
26	Davison, E. A. ...	Electricity ...	Worthing B.C.
28	De Boer, F. ...	Health	Kingston-upon-Hull
29	Doig, S. K. ...	Education ...	York B.C.
30	Edey, C. C. A. ...	Education ...	Leyton B.C.
32	Everett, B. ...	Clerk's ...	Southport B.C.
36	Gains, T.	Education ...	N. Riding C.C.
38	Glover, P.... ...	Clerk's	Nottingham C.B.C.
39	Govett, L. ...	Surveyor's ...	Taunton R.D.C.
40	Grange, W. L. ...	Surveyor's ...	East Ham C.B.C.
43	Hall, W. G. ...	Clerk's	Ruislip-Northwood U.D.C
46	Holroyd, J. H. ...	Public Assistance	Radnorshire C.C.
47	Hughes, A. R. ...	Clerk's	Hornchurch U.D.C.
49	Hutchings, H. J. E.	Health	Willesden B.C.
53	Kirk, E. H. ...	Clerk's	Lindsey C.C.
58	Lees, J. W. ...	Electricity ...	Middlesbrough C.B.C.
59	Longworth, C. L.	Electricity ...	Bolton C.B.C.
63	McManus, C. M. ...	Clerk's	Inverness C.C.
64	Manderson, F. E. G.	Education ...	W. Riding C.C.
67	Millward, C. G. ...	Clerk's	Preston C.B.C.
72	Painter, J. W. ...	Clerk's	Hants C.C.
77	Radford, L. M. ...	Clerk's	Somerset C.C.
78	Reyland, O. J. ...	Electricity ...	Cardiff
80	Robertson, N. G.	Education ...	Willesden B.C.
86	Stratford, T. E. ...	Clerk's	Somerset C.C.
90	Walker, H. H. ...	Treasurer's ...	Harrogate B.C.
93	Waring, C. E. B.	Clerk's	Southport C.B.C.
96	Wheelock, H. E. ...	Transport ...	Manchester C.B.C.
98	Wood, G.	Clerk's	Esher U.D.C.
99	Wright, E. ...	Clerk's	Wakefield C.B.C.
100	Wright, M. R. ...	Health	Hants C.C.
101	Stansfield, R. ...	Clerk's	Oldham C.B.C.

FINAL GRADE

151	Ayling, P. J. C. ...	Clerk's	Leicestershire C.C.
152	Barker, J. W. H....	Health	Willesden B.C.
153	Binks, R. K. ...	Education ...	West Riding C.C.
154	Brook, L. N. ...	Taxation ...	Bristol C.B.C.
156	Clarke, L. P. ...	Land Agent's ...	Northants C.C.
157	Cook, G. ...	Clerk's	Somerset C.C.
158	Fellows, F. F. ...	Clerk's	Hampshire C.C.
159	Hinton, R. W. ...	Clerk's	Swindon B.C.
161	Hope, A. E. ...	Clerk's	Somerset C.C.
162	Lewis, J. P. ...	Health	Manchester C.B.C.
166	Perrin, V. D. ...	Engineer's ...	Poplar B.C.
169	Sherlock, T. ...	Education ...	Preston C.B.C.
170	Thomas, A. ...	Electricity ...	Cardiff C.B.C.
171	Trott, R. F. ...	Electricity ...	Cardiff C.B.C.
173	Whittall, A. J. ...	Clerk's	Preston C.B.C.
175	Wooding, J. ...	Clerk's	Hornsey B.C.
176	Wreford, A. J. ...	Clerk's	Denbigh C.C.

At Random

By "HYPERION"

He held the view, no doubt rightly, that one did not require men of great erudition for administrative work, but rather individuals with a fair share of tact and ordinary horse-sense, and sportsmen into the bargain—*From "Three Deserts," by C. S. JARVIS.*

Unknown London

How many people know that the Doomsday Books, two of them, lie open in a glass case just a hundred yards from Fleet Street? Ask twenty Londoners and be amazed at the number who have never seen it. Visitors come all the way from New York to gaze with wonder at this effort of William the Conqueror in 1086, and yet the crowds who pass Temple Bar every day cannot spare five minutes to do likewise.

Up Chancery Lane, into the Public Records Office Museum between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. any day but Saturday or Sunday, sign the book (visitors') and through the door is the huge iron-bound chest in which the books used to be locked. The books themselves are in the centre of the room which comprises the Museum.

Among the documents and letters there is the log of the Victory recording the Battle of Trafalgar. There is the anonymous letter exposing the gunpowder plot, a statement by Guido Fawkes, a letter from the king advising gentle torture to make him confess, and finally Guido's faint signature to his confession when in a state of collapse from suffering. There is the "Scrap of Paper" which involved Britain in the Great War, with the signatures of the various parties. There is the signature of Queen Elizabeth and that of Shakespeare, of whose there are only six known.

Half an hour in this atmosphere makes history a reality, not merely a story or a school lesson. Anyone who finds mortgages or overdrafts depressing should see here the simple method of long ago: Debtor and lender each had a stick on which the amount of debt was marked by a notch. These two sticks formed a pair which dovetailed together, but even so there seems nothing to prevent the debtor using his stick to light the fire.—*From "What's On?"*

* * *

No Names, No Pack Drill

A member of an Entertainments Committee complained that a programme issued in a certain music-hall indicated a lady with very diaphanous attire. He called the attention of the Chairman of the Committee to this and asked for an explanation. "It's very curious," said the chairman, "when *I* attend these music-halls I never have a programme such as this given to me. Now that I look at the picture on the front page all I have to say is: *'And very nice, too!'*"

* * *

The English Character

Mr. Douglas Jerrold makes some shrewd comments on the English character in his book "England."

"We are," he says, "a good-humoured rather than a good-natured people. Our fortitude is expressed in a humorous composure in the face of our own misfortune, not in any spontaneous desire to adventure ourselves to avert or lighten the misfortunes of others. It was our native good humour which enabled the strikers in 1926 to play football against the police. Good nature would have prevented the strikers striking, or (according to the view of the other school) the police charging the strikers with their batons."

It is interesting to compare this summary of the English temperament with the views of a Frenchwoman. Odette Keun in "I Discover the English," writes:

"There are expressions in English that have no equivalent in any language I know. Like 'our betters,' and 'the likes of me,' for instance. Imagine a French mechanic, or a small grocer, or workman using such words! He could never have *invented* them, even as a joke. Of course, he admits there are people who have authority over him, but only because they are richer or more successful. If he—the mechanic or small grocer or workman—had had as much money or as much luck, he'd have cut as good a figure as they, if not a better one. For the Revolution gave the French the ineradicable conviction that they are equals—not in circumstance, but in intrinsic worth."

* * *

For Housing Committees:

We wunce had a parler fer tea on Sunday.
Tom cleaned his bisicle ther on Monday.
Perce an' 'is fren Amelia Rite
Sat in the dark ther Toosday nite.
On Wedensday we had the close in
But sooted me to 'ave a dose in.
On Thursday it were used for nowt
For that was when we'd scrubbed it out.
On Friday it were clean and tidy
For the intrudin' Vicar's lidy.
On Sattiday we 'ad a party.

But there ain't no parler now—
An' wi?
R.D.C. man ses ter me,
You give up this 'ere luxeree.
Tis not the likes ov you, ses 'e,
As should be 'avin compernee;
Besides you 'ave a skuleree.
Wots rong wiv you, 'e ses ter me,
Is that your wages is, ses 'e,
Too i.

* * *

A Note on the Scots

You find they usually arrange their dishes at dinner by the points of the compass: "Sandy, put the gigot of mutton to the south, and move the singet sheep's head a wee bit to the nor-wast."—*Sydney Smith.*

* * *

An Idle Thought

The heading "Council Blows Over Donkeys" misled me. I realise now that it meant that people fought.

But at first I had a far more amusing vision of the councillors blowing the donkeys to cool them (a plebeian habit. Gentlemen push them into the saucer). Then I imagined some host saying, "Remind me to blow out the donkeys before I leave the room."—*From "Gallimaufry" by J. B. Morton.*

* * *

Litter

He levelled forty miles of open downs
To build his chain of little model towns,
And on the ruins of old woods arose
His green and blue and yellow bungalows.
One day, for dropping paper carelessly,
They jugged him (Anti-Litter Act, Sec. Three)
—Ibid.

* * *

Democracy

When it comes to governing under democratic conditions you have either to reduce the people to your own level of mediocrity or reduce yourself to theirs. As a rule it is a compromise which brings both to a lower level than either held.—*Oliver St. J. Gogarty.*

* * *

A Prudent Epigram

Lives of Great Men all remind us
As their pages o'er we turn,
That we often leave behind us
Letters we had better burn.

Gleanings—

from the Paris Summer School

The best arrangements cannot provide for everything, and it was a pity that the two Spanish-speaking members of the party were not among the students housed in the Colegio de Espana. It would have saved much argument.

* * *

Some of the French officials who undertook the task of explaining French institutions to the students must have thought the Inquisition had descended upon them. The Spanish Inquisition, of course.

* * *

In the time of leisure that the Summer School programme wisely allowed, students had an opportunity of cementing international friendship. Language was no bar as everyone understands American these days. "Wacky" was a new one on us, though.

* * *

The words "Défense d'afficher" must be repeated more often than any others throughout Paris; they seem to be effective, although some signwriters are a little hazy as to the precise date of the law. Was it 1881?

* * *

The Exposition was a favourite visiting place. The German and Russian Pavilions, glowering at each other across the avenue, were very typical of the totalitarian states, and unashamedly propagandist. One could have wished for a little more purpose about the British Pavilion and rather more attention to detail. A jacket on a dummy in one of the windows was an appalling fit.

* * *

There was much good-natured chaffing during the course of the school. The favourite joke related to the student who asked, in French, for "desert" and received two eggs.

* * *

The return journey across the Channel lacked the tranquillity of the voyage out, and lunch was regarded by many as having been rather a waste of time. Some of the students are now ardent supporters of the Channel Tunnel Scheme.

* * *

Test Papers for Paris Summer School Students

1. What happened on July 29, 1881?
2. In what sense would you employ the following words: "Pardon"; "très difficile"; "Cinzano"; "Wacky."
3. Distinguish (vocally) "Desert" and "deux oeufs." What is the difference between "Exposition" and "Exhibition"?
4. What happened to the second coach en route to Suresnes?
5. With what do you associate the words "Assistance Publique"?
6. Describe indifference curves showing the relation of cost of living for the 40-hour week to the per capita grant of ink at the Lycée Marie Curie.
7. What is the maximum capacity of a Paris taxi (∞ = inf.)?
8. What, in France, do you associate with the First Emperor? (Additional exercise books can be obtained from the invigilator.)
9. Translate into Spanish "Please remove these two eggs."
10. Write a short essay on the benefits of sea travel.

(*Continued from page 202*)

PRIZEWINNERS.

The prizewinners of the tennis and golf competitions in connection with the School were: Golf—Men—1 (tie) P. Pettigrew, Glasgow, and A. W. Spence, Edinburgh. Ladies—1, Mrs. Pettigrew. Tennis—1, A. Ashford, Dumbarton, and W. S. Taylor, Greenock; 2, Miss G. Laing, Edinburgh, and J. C. Orr, Lanark.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS:
24, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "Insurance," "Finance," "Organization," "Education," or "Special Activities."

Telephone: WHItehall 9351 (6 lines). Telegrams: Natassoc Parl. London

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Deputy General Secretary, Legal Secretary and Insurance Secretary: J. Simonds, M.A., Barrister-at-law.

Accountant: H. G. Baker.

Organizing Secretary: J. B. Swinden.

Education Secretary: H. Slater, B.Sc. (Econ.), F.C.I.S.

Special Activities Secretary: H. Wright.

Divisional Secretaries:

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North Western and North Wales District: Haden Corser, 2, Mount Street, Manchester. Telephone: Blackfriars 7668.

North Eastern and Yorkshire Districts: W. Cecil Wood, 12, East Parade, Leeds. Telephone: Leeds 24861.

East Midland, West Midland and South Wales Districts: J. E. N. Davis, York House, Great Charles Street, Birmingham. Telephone: Central 1836.

South Eastern, Southern and South Western Districts: F. Thomas, Room 60, Somerset House, Reading. Telephone: Reading 3880.

Scottish District: J. M. Mortimer, 67, West Nile Street, Glasgow, C.1. Telephone: Douglas 404.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted to branch officers:—

JUNE 30

56/NPS/37
(To each local correspondent of the Provident Society.)
(a) Giving detailed information relating to the Sickness Scheme, the Death Benefit Scheme and the Hospital and Nursing Home Scheme.
(b) Enclosing a copy of a circular for distribution among the members of the branches and requesting information as to how many copies will be required by each branch.
(c) Setting out a form for requisitioning copies of the circular mentioned under (b) and propaganda literature.
(d) Enclosing a copy of the Rules of the Society as amended at the annual general meeting, 1937.

58/ED/37
(To secretaries of district committees, area education committees, branches and to education correspondents.)
Concerning the granting of loans by local authorities to officers taking appropriate examinations and courses of study.

59/ED/37
(To secretaries of district committees, area education committees, branches and to education correspondents.)
(a) Requesting information as to the practice of local authorities in connexion with assistance given to students preparing for professional, technical or vocational examinations.
(b) Asking for details of schemes or facilities for post-entry training in operation in the various authorities.

60/SA/37
(To each branch secretary.)
(a) Regarding membership of Boots' Booklovers Library.
(b) Enclosing a copy of the new application form for membership of the Library service and setting out a form for requisitioning additional copies.

61/SA/37
(To each branch secretary.)
Setting out vacancies at the Holiday Centres at Croyde Bay and Cayton Bay and at the private hotel at Cefn-y-Mynach, Rhos-on-Sea.

62/ORG/37
(To each branch secretary.)
Asking branches to forward to the divisional secretaries news items for incorporation in "Local Government Service."

63/BO/37
(To each branch secretary.)
Regarding the increase in the annual contribution to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

JULY 1

57/GEN/37
(To the secretaries of education committees.)
Concerning the appointment of the junior staff of the Association.

N.A.L.G.O.
SWISS
HOLIDAYS

To Nalgo Swiss Holiday Department
Please send Illustrated Folder and Booking Form to:

Mr., Mrs., or Miss.....

.....

.....
(open envelope ½d. stamp)

Notice

To Members of Boots Booklovers Library.

In response to the suggestion of members it has been decided that in future years the renewal date for subscriptions to Boots Booklovers Library shall be the 1st of May of each year instead of the 1st of August as previously.

As a consequence subscribers are reminded that their subscriptions become due on the 1st of August, 1937, for the period commencing on that date, and ending on the 30th of April, 1938. Thenceforth, the renewal date will be the 1st of May.

A reduction in the subscription for this short period will be made.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the cost-of-living index for the past six months: February, 51; March, 51; April, 51; May, 52; June, 52; July, 55. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the index figure is based are as follow:

	May	June	July
Food	36	36	40
Rent	59	59	59
Clothing	100	105	105
Fuel and Light ..	80	75	75
Other items ..	75	75	75

IMPORTANT DATE

August 31.—Branches to remit all monies due to the Association to Headquarters.

R. S. V. P.

Branches are reminded that the subscription list for contributions to the Sir Henry Jackson Memorial Fund has not yet been closed.

All subscriptions should be addressed to Mr. R. W. Rowles, Town Hall, Wandsworth, London, S.W.18.

Swim Suits

10/- each

Blazer 1st quality 28/6
2nd „ 23/6
(1/6 *extra if made to measure*)

Slip-on Grey 7/-
White 8/-

in N.A.L.G.O. colours

Wear a N.A.L.G.O. TIE

Illustrated price list obtainable from
N.A.L.G.O., Special Activities Dept.
24 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Editorial Offices: 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1. Telephone: Whitehall 9351 (6 lines). Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration. No payment will be made for contributions unless they are specially requested by the Editor. Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed. Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly. All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

Advertisement Offices: A. Darby's Advertising Service, 24-26, Water Lane, London, E.C.4, to whom all advertisement communications should be addressed. Replies to Box Nos. must be sent to A. Darby's Advertising Service. Telephones: City 6686 and 6687. Telegrams: Darbiads, Cent, London.

Spirit of Local Government

IN the report of the University Grants Committee published some time ago there was an excellent analysis of what University education should be. The report stated that University education ought to afford a man what might be described as an education for life. An education for life may be achieved in many different ways: certainly it is not gained solely in the lecture room, the laboratory or the library. The mere acquiring of knowledge is not enough. The excitement of being plunged into a new environment and a more spacious mode of life with all its possibilities of congenial study and congenial companionships, the informal discussions of a few friends about all things in heaven and earth, up to all hours of the night and morning, where the argument is followed whithersoever it leads, these are the influences which stimulate thought and enlarge its boundaries.

There are many who through various circumstances are unable to follow a University career, but much of the spirit embodied in the comments of the University Grants Committee can be captured at the Association's Summer Schools.

One must be impressed by the persistence of the students attending the Paris Summer School in pursuing their inquiries.

One often hears it said that the school teacher can be recognised at a glance. It is hardly true to say the same of the local government officer. We are not a "type." Nevertheless it is true to say that whilst we do not disclose our profession in our faces, there has developed a local government type of mind. There is a spirit of Local Government and any officer, with even but a few years of service, tends to regard every problem as an administrative problem and to look at it through the eyes of a public servant.

Whilst our prototype on the Continent may be much more "cut to pattern" than the British local government officer, and whilst the two may differ considerably in many essential features, there is undoubtedly in common a spirit of Local Government and the tendency to enjoy facing problems the solution of which will improve the welfare of the community.

The students who visited the Paris Summer School had ample opportunity of inspecting and inquiring into the administration of local government institutions and centres, and it was interesting to find that many of the problems with which we are now confronted face our French colleagues. Many of our problems have been solved in France, whilst many problems which we have solved years ago are still worrying the French public administrator.

Whatever the country be, whether it be a totalitarian state, a centralised state, a democratic state, or any other modern political form of state, the same kind of problem is met and to a large degree is solved in much the same way. There is a kind of internationalism in local government, and it is this which creates a spirit of local government and a sense of service to the community which makes the work of the officer of such great value, and a stabilising factor in ministerial and political instability.

The spirit of local government must be cultivated, and this can be done by a pursuit of knowledge in local government affairs. It is a source of encouragement to find that throughout the ages there have been people who gave themselves up to the pursuit of knowledge and a sincere search after truth.

It is interesting to record that the Cité Universitaire, where the Paris Summer School students were housed, was founded to alleviate the poor circumstances in which students in Paris found themselves. History records that students assembled in Paris in extremely poor surroundings, and on the verge of starvation, yet consistently pursued their studies. To-day it is sad to relate that education and the search for knowledge requires great encouragement at every conceivable point.

But education can be a sympathetic bond between nations. At the Cité Universitaire nineteen nations have representative houses, each of which is built in the architectural style of the country it represents. It is interesting to rub shoulders with students from other countries, and this can only lead to more permanent international peace.

Those who are fortunate enough to visit the Continent for holidays will do so primarily as holidaymakers, but will nevertheless obtain an impression of brotherhood amongst the people of the world. If they be local government officers they will regard the holiday centre as a place in which local government problems have been solved or await solution; they will regard, even though it be subconsciously, the whole gamut of tours, excursions and all that goes to make up a holiday, through the eyes of the local government officer.

We have much to learn from other countries, and other countries have much to learn from us. Our system of local government has the admiration of most countries. Let us, as local government officers, see to it that not only do we understand our own system, but that we will do all in our power to perfect that system.

This year's N.A.L.G.O. Summer School in Paris was in the nature of an experiment. It has proved an unqualified success. Other countries now want us, and if we can make the slightest contribution to a better understanding of our several and national public administration problems, we shall be serving humanity—humanity that in all conscience needs every service that can be rendered to give it peace and hope, and a fuller life, which, after all, is the ultimate aim of local government.

It is with deep regret

that we learn of the death of

Mr. F. J. C. Butcher.

Mr. Butcher had suffered for many years from heart trouble and only recently returned to duty after a short illness. With the death of his father a few weeks ago he suffered a severe shock, and passed away suddenly on the evening July 12.

Mr. Butcher was the Vice-Chairman of the Eastbourne Branch, and for many years had rendered very valuable service to the Association. With his passing the branch has lost a Vice-Chairman who was respected and esteemed by every member of his branch. Sincere sympathies are offered to Mrs. Butcher in her bereavement.

National Executive Council Proceedings

THE first meeting of the National Executive Council since the Annual Conference at Margate was held at the Association's Headquarters, 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, when a warm welcome was extended to the new members of the Council present, Messrs. F. D. Barton, J. H. Clark, R. W. Coppock, E. H. Mason, H. G. Pope, R. E. Sopwith, L. H. Taylor and E. A. S. Young.

The Chairman of the Council, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, presided and the following members of the Council were in attendance :

Messrs. H. H. Allen
H. J. Altoun
A. G. M. Archibald
W. W. Armitage
E. F. Bacon
J. T. Baker
W. A. N. Baker
F. D. Barton
J. Brown
A. G. Bolton
J. Chaston
J. H. Clark
R. W. Coppock
F. E. Cox
A. B. Day
G. S. Fraser
T. Freeman
A. A. Garrard
A J. Gould
V. Grainger
D. L. Griffiths
F. H. Harrod
P. H. Harrold
R. E. Heron
J. L. Holland
W. H. Legh-Smith
G. Llewellyn
W. E. Lloyd
E. H. Mason
F. V. Merriman
C. Newman
A. Denton Ogden
D. J. Parry
A. Pinches
H. G. Pope
E. L. Riley
C. A. W. Roberts
Lucas E. Rumsey
J. W. Singleton
R. E. Sopwith
Miss I. Stansfield
Messrs. E. J. Stead
G. A. Stone
H. Taylor
L. H. Taylor
J. W. Vince
J. H. Warren
J. W. Wilkinson
L. Worden
E. A. S. Young

The following were appointed to represent the Association on the various Committees of the International Union of Local Authorities for the year 1937-38 :

Full Committee : Messrs. W. W. Armitage
P. H. Harrold
J. L. Holland
W. E. Lloyd
J. W. Wilkinson
General Secretary

Standing Committee for Great Britain :
Mr. P. H. Harrold
General Secretary

Permanent Bureau : General Secretary

Messrs. C. A. W. Roberts, T. Nolan and the General Secretary were elected to represent the Association on the International Hospital Association for the year 1937-38.

Consideration was given to the report of the Future Policy Committee which was adopted at the Margate Conference :

In order to give immediate effect to Suggestion (a), the Rules of the Association were amended at the Margate Conference, on the recommendation of the National Executive Council.

The General Secretary suggested that one or two members of the Council might be appointed to meet the Committees of Management of the Ancillaries in order to discuss the question of membership of those committees of Management, and it was decided that Messrs. W. W. Armitage, A. A. Garrard, C. J. Newman and J. W. Wilkinson be appointed to meet the Committees of Management of the ancillaries. The reports of the Committees were then considered and adopted.

Law and Parliamentary

The Law and Parliamentary Committee reported in detail on a very large number of cases of assistance to individual members.

It was reported that as a result of negotiations between the Association and the Ministry of Agriculture the latter agreed that a provision should be inserted in the Livestock Industry Bill for compensating local government officers and servants who might suffer loss in consequence of the Bill, and for applying the compensation provisions set out in the Fourth Schedule to the Local Government Act, 1933, with the necessary modifications. Sir Francis Fremantle, M.P., moved the necessary amendment to clause 46 whilst the Bill was in Committee of the House of Commons, and the Minister of Agriculture, having stated that he was prepared to accept the amendment, the amendment was agreed to.

The Committee reported on representations made on behalf of the Association to the Ministry of Transport in reference to the legislative proposals of the Government in regard to electricity distribution. It was further stated that a Joint Committee of organisations affected by the proposed legislation, on which N.A.L.G.O. was represented, had been appointed to examine the suggested compensation provisions and formulate proposals thereon, and also to watch the progress of the proposed Bill.

Newcomers to the N.E.C.

Mr. E. A. S. YOUNG

Mr. J. H. CLARK

Mr. F. D. BARTON

Mr. R. E. SOPWITH

Photo: Lafayette.
Mr. E. H. MASON

Mr. L. H. TAYLOR

Officers and Contracts

One of the branches of the Association called attention to certain inequalities arising out of the operation of sections 76 and 123 of the Local Government Act, 1933, which relate to disclosure of pecuniary interest in contracts of local authorities. Section 76 of the Act, it was pointed out, provided that a member of a local authority might make a general declaration, whereas in section 123 no such provision existed. It followed, therefore, that an officer of a local authority was called upon to disclose his pecuniary interest on each occasion when it came to his knowledge that a contract had been or was proposed to be entered into by the authority or any committee thereof. "It will readily be appreciated," stated the Branch, "that officers of a local authority frequently invest their savings in the shares of the railway companies, building societies, etc., and also are members of the co-operative society. Payments are made by the local authority to these and other similar bodies nearly every month, and consequently it is in some cases necessary for an officer to declare his interest at least once a month." Further, section 76 provided that no prosecution might be instituted except by or on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions, whereas there was no protection of this description afforded to an officer. The Committee resolved that the Legal Secretary be requested to communicate with the Minister of Health pointing out the inequalities and difficulties arising out of the operation of the sections, and that the Minister be requested to bear in mind the representations made thereon by the Committee in the event of an amending measure being under consideration in the future.

The Superannuation Bills

The Chairman (Mr. F. H. Harrold) and the Legal Secretary reported upon further developments which had occurred on the Local Government Superannuation Bills since the last meeting of the Committee. It was expected that both the English and Scottish Bills would become Law during the present session of Parliament. The Chairman informed the Committee that the introduction of the Bills had involved a tremendous amount of extra work for the Legal Secretary, and it was unanimously resolved to express the Committee's keen appreciation of the excellent services rendered by the Legal Secretary in connection with the introduction of the Bills.

Since the March meeting of the Committee decisions had been given on the following compensation appeals which had been made:—Under a County Review Order: (1) Compensation granted, £46 8s. 10d.; compensation awarded, £54; increase per annum, £7 11s. 2d. (2) Compensation granted, £468 16s.; compensation awarded, £493; increase per annum, £24 4s. (3) Compensation granted, £387 5s. 4d.; compensation awarded, £416 10s.; increase per annum, £29 4s. 8d.

It was also announced that since the last meeting of the Committee the following cases had been dealt with at headquarters:—Compensation for loss of office or emoluments, 12; conditions of service of transferred officers, 16; superannuation, 81; general legal questions (other than the particular cases referred to in the Committee's agenda), 47.

Service Conditions and Organization

Mr. H. Allen and Mr. E. L. Riley were appointed Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the **Service Conditions and Organization Committee** and the report of the Committee was presented by its Chairman.

It was reported that Mrs. A. A. Woodman had been re-appointed to represent the Association on the London and National Society for Women's Service and that Mr. H. Allen and the Organizing Secretary were to represent the Association on the General Council of the National Industrial Alliance.

A report of the meeting of the Standing Joint Committee held on June 5th was considered when a number of matters of importance were discussed. These included the "Hadow" Report, the Superannuation Bill and Whitley Councils. The question of closer working arrangements between N.A.L.G.O. and the Sectional Societies was discussed at some length. It was finally agreed that a series of conferences should be held with certain of the Societies in order that more intimate discussions might take place with regard to their special difficulties.

WHITLEYISM

The subject of Whitleyism was discussed in detail by the Committee and the following is a brief summary of the position in various areas:

West Midland District. A conference was recently convened by Sir Charles Mander, Mayor of Wolverhampton, at which representatives of the local authorities in the West Midland area were present, and it was decided to approve in principle the formation of a Provincial Joint Council for the administrative, technical and clerical services, and to recommend the local authorities in the area to consider the question of co-operating in establishing a Provincial Council for those services.

Eastern District. A meeting, convened by Alderman Briggs, J.P., Mayor of Cambridge, was held at Cambridge on June 8, and it was decided to send a full report of the meeting to all local authorities in the area, and to request their views on the formation of a Provincial Council. After this information has been obtained a further conference will be held.

South Wales and Monmouthshire. The Lord Mayor of Cardiff has agreed to call a conference of representatives of local authorities in the area.

Middlesex. The Middlesex Whitley Council has now drawn up and published its constitution, and representatives have been appointed to the National Whitley Council. A committee has been set up consisting of three representatives from the staffs' side and three representatives from the employers' side, with the chairman and vice-chairman ex-officio, to consider and report on various matters relating to service conditions.

SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT

It is proposed that a request be made to the Lord Mayors of Bristol and Plymouth jointly, to convene a conference of local authorities' representatives in the area.

GRADUATE RECRUITMENT

It was reported that a deputation had conferred with representatives of the Oxford University Appointments Board and had discussed with the representatives the whole question of the recruitment of university graduates into the local government service.

COST OF LIVING INDEX

The Committee was informed that it has been decided that budgets shall be collected giving details of the expenditure of a representative sample of some thousands of working-class families, beginning in the autumn of this year. The Advisory Committee on Working Class Expenditure, however, decided not to accede to the Association's request for the scope of the enquiry to be extended to the realms of middle class expenditure. Budgets will not be officially collected from families of non-manual workers with salaries above the unemployment insurance limit of £250 a year. The Advisory Committee have, however, expressed the view that any proposals which any organizations representing non-manual workers with salaries above the salary limit of £250 might make to collect budgets from their members would be welcomed, and that the value of any information so obtained would be enhanced if the organizations concerned would, so far as practicable, conduct their enquiries on lines parallel with those of the official enquiry. The Service Conditions and Organization Committee was also informed that conferences will take place with the civil service organizations.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

The Committee reported that joint action had been taken with the Trades Union Congress to protect the interests of municipal employees in connection with schemes of precaution against air raids, and that a deputation had met the Home Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare, when various points were stressed. The Home Secretary undertook to re-examine the position generally, bearing in mind the representations which had been made and offered to meet the deputation again at a later date. He agreed to consider a suggestion that before any further circulars are forwarded to the local authorities, a tripartite conference should be held, consisting of representatives of the Home Office, the local authorities and the Trades Union Congress.

Finance and General Purposes

Mr. A. G. M. Archibald has been appointed Chairman and Mr. T. Freeman, Vice-Chairman of the **Finance and General Purposes Committee** for the ensuing year.

Representation on Other Bodies. The Committee reported that it had appointed Mr. F. D. Barton to represent the Association on the London "Safety First" Council for the year 1937-38 and Mr. A. A. Garrard on the National Council for Social Service.

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The following resolution which was passed at the Annual Conference at Margate was considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

> "That this Conference is of opinion that a Code of Professional Conduct for all members of the local government service is desirable and instructs the National Executive Council to prepare a code for submission to the Annual Conference 1938."

when it was decided to ask the Council's Future Policy Committee to submit observations and report on a suggested Code of Professional Conduct.

Benevolent and Orphan Fund

Mr. A. G. Bolton has been appointed Chairman and Mr. E. A. S. Young has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the **Benevolent and Orphan Fund Committee.**

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr. W. H. Legh-Smith, drew the Council's attention to the financial position of the Fund and the very serious position likely to ensue unless the annual income could be considerably increased. The demands on the Fund were growing out of all proportion to the income of the Fund and it was therefore decided to issue a special appeal to Branches from the Honorary Treasurer on behalf of the Fund. It was also suggested that Branches should be asked to hold special meetings for the purpose of considering ways and means of augmenting the income of the Fund.

The Chairman reported that in view of the fact that the proceeds for the sale of the "Help Yourself" Annuals for 1936 was only £1,001 17s. 9d., as against £2,132 16s. 6d. for 1935, the Committee had reluctantly decided to reduce by half the grants made to District Committees for distribution to local hospitals.

It was reported that the Committee had approved weekly allowances in 332 cases and that on the basis of those allowances the annual expenditure was nearly £17,000. Lump sum grants of nearly £600 have been granted in 39 cases and loans totalling over £900 have been made in 56 cases.

Education

The **Education Committee** received a report that the Association's examinations were held on May 27, 28, and 29 at a large number of centres, one hundred candidates sitting for the Intermediate and twenty-five for the Final examination.

The Committee decided that a circular should be forwarded to Branches in order to ascertain what schemes of post-entry training were operative, and that the information received from Branches should be considered in conjunction with the resolution on this subject passed at the Annual Conference.

The Committee also decided to obtain from Branches information with regard to the practice of local authorities in connection with assistance to students preparing for professional, technical or vocational examinations and with regard to examination successes.

The Committee has recommended the National Executive Council to apply for membership of the British Film Institute, and the recommendation was approved by the Council.

At the meeting discussion took place on the form of the Education Correspondents' Meeting, and it was suggested that Branches be invited to submit items for discussion at the Education Correspondents' Meeting. Branches should be informed that the items submitted should not be in the form of a motion but should be points for general discussion, and that where a Branch submitted an item which might more suitably be discussed in Conference, a communication should be forwarded to the Branch suggesting that the appropriate notice of motion be placed on the Conference Agenda.

On the recommendation of the Education Committee the National Executive Council decided to allocate a sum of £500 in respect of grants to universities during the academic year 1937-38.

Diplomas in Public Administration. The position with regard to the possible establishment of a Diploma in Public Administration under the auspices of the London University Extension Lectures Council was reported. The Committee decided to support the establishment of such a diploma after consideration of resolutions passed by the Public Administration Sub-Committee of the Joint Universities Council for Social Studies and Public Administration.

In view of the fact that none of the candidates who presented themselves for the examination for the Sister-Tutor Scholarship reached the required standard it was decided that the Sister-Tutor Scholarship be not awarded this year, but that the Scholarship should be offered again next year.

The organization of successful Week-end Schools in the North-Western, Yorkshire, North-Eastern and Eastern districts was reported.

It was reported that during the period January 1 to May 31, 203 students had enrolled with the N.A.L.G.O. Correspondence Institute.

Special Activities

The **Special Activities Committee** submitted a report from the N.A.L.G.O. Holiday Centres Sub-Committee which they had received and adopted. The Sub-Committee reported in considerable detail on a large number of further improvements at the centres. It was decided to keep Cefn-y-Mynach open during next winter, and to charge 7s. per day.

In view of the decision at the annual Conference to approve the principle of trading, it was decided to submit to the next meeting of the Committee a complete scheme, together with the draft rules for an Industrial and Provident Society, for consideration.

Tour to Canada and United States

It was reported that for the educational tour to Canada and America the number of definite bookings received was 65. A programme of visits, receptions, etc., had been arranged in each city to be visited on the lines set out in the tentative programme contained in the agenda for the last meeting. For Swiss holidays 525 bookings had already been received, representing 870 weeks' residence. It was also reported that arrangements had been made with "Informal Travel" to introduce a series of cargo boat holidays for members of N.A.L.G.O.

Some suggestions made by the Hastings Branch in regard to the Correspondence Chess Competition were adopted, and it was decided that arrangements be made for the 1936-37 and 1937-38 competitions to be completed before the Blackpool Conference, and that each winning team hold the trophy for six months.

Publications and Public Relations

The Publications and Public Relations Committee submitted a report showing numerous activities directed to securing greater public interest in the work of local government. Among the items specially mentioned was the forthcoming jubilee of the establishment of the County Councils. A book list on local government had been drawn up and it was decided that a leaflet on the Association's work should be distributed with it.

Logomia

A meeting of the **Logomia Board of Management** was held on the 24th June, 1937, when the question of extending the Motor Hire Purchase Scheme to second-hand vehicles was considered. The Board also gave consideration to the question of issuing Family Income Policies with Annuity Benefits for 25 and 30 years and the Actuary was instructed to prepare the necessary additional tables of premiums.

N.B.S.

The Nalgo Building Society Committee of Management reported that the following enrolments had been made since the inception of the Society:—17,556 members for paid-up and partly-paid shares; 1,658 depositors (members of N.A.L.G.O.); 1,535 depositors (non-members).

Provident Society

The **Provident Society Committee of Management** at its meeting, held on June 18, 1937, elected Mr. T. Nolan as Chairman and Mr. L. H. Taylor as Vice-Chairman for the year 1937-38. In the absence of Mr. T. Nolan owing to the sudden death of his wife's sister, Mr. L. H. Taylor took the Chair.

It was reported that at June 4, 1937, there were 17,040 members of the Sickness Scheme, 1,229 members of the Death Benefit Scheme, and that 5,023 persons were insured under the Hospital and Nursing Home Scheme.

The question was raised at the last Annual General Meeting as to whether the Committee of Management would consider reducing the management fees payable by members and the persons insured by their membership under the Hospital and Nursing Home Scheme (Table III), and the Chairman promised that the whole question would be considered and a report submitted at the next Annual General Meeting. This matter was fully discussed and it was decided that as from January 1, 1938, a management fee of 3d. per month be not payable in respect of any child insured by virtue of the members' membership under this Scheme, and that a notice of motion amending the relevant rules be included in the agenda of the next Annual General Meeting. **As from January 1, 1938, therefore, a management fee of 3d. per month will not be payable in respect of any child insured under this scheme.**

Messrs. H. J. Altoun, J. Chaston, J. H. Clark, W. H. Legh-Smith, W. E. Lloyd, E. H. Mason and R. E. Sopwith were elected, honorary members of the Society for the period of their membership of the National Executive Council in accordance with Rule 3(1) (c).

Nalgo Building Society

Free Advertising Service

STOUR PROVOST (Dorset).—Freehold detached bungalow. New and well built in brick. Six rooms. Council's water, modern sanitation, electric light throughout. ¼ acre of land situated in well-known Blackmoor Vale. Buses pass door 3 days a week. Price £650, or near offer.—Apply P. W. 98, Clonmell Road, London, N.17.

TWICKENHAM (Middlesex).— Freehold detached bungalow. Brick built. 3 rooms, kitchen, scullery, bathroom, w.c., etc. Plot 32 ft. by 115 ft. No road charges. Price £750.—Apply Lisieux, 90, Nelson Road, Whitton, Twickenham.

ROMFORD (Essex). — Semi-detached freehold. 3 large bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, tiled bathroom, 2 separate w.c.'s. Large garage. Newly-built. Pleasant situation backing on orchard. No road charges. Price £765, or near offer.—Apply R. Clarke, 7, Osborne Close, Romford, Essex.

South-Western District Committee

The Quarterly meeting of the South Western District Committee was held at the Town Hall, Ilfracombe, on Saturday July, 3, 1937. Mr. C. J. Newman presided and some forty members were present.

The chairman of the Ilfracombe U.D.C., Major Thomas, in welcoming members to the town referred to the excellent work achieved by the Association for the benefit not only of the officers but also for the local authorities, especially on the educational side. Major Thomas also congratulated the Association on its Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

Further consideration was given to the question of affiliation with the Workers Educational Association. After hearing the views of various branches who were already affiliated with the W.E.A., and the useful work done in this connection, it was decided that the District Committee should affiliate with the Western and South Western areas of the W.E.A., and that branches should be informed accordingly.

The chairman referred to the election of Colonel Stead as Junior Vice President of the Association, and the committee were unanimous in recording their warm congratulations to Colonel Stead upon his election to such a high office in the Association.

In submitting the reports of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Committee, Mr. Shears, the chairman, made reference to the large increased demands on the Fund and the urgent need for further efforts on the part of branches to augment the income of the Fund during the current year. The committee decided to adopt the new rules concerning the appointment of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Sub-committee and the following were elected to serve as members of the sub-committee until the Annual Meeting 1938: Messrs. C. J. Newman, E. J. Stead, R. S. Hobbs, S. Stratford, R. T. Shears and E. J. Pratt. Mr. H. Heaton (Exeter) was elected as Honorary Secretary of the sub-committee.

In connection with the development of educational facilities in the district the Devon County Branch undertook to convene a meeting of representatives of the branches in the south west of the district to discuss the need for setting up an Education Sub-committee for that area.

Propaganda grants were made to the Devon County, Gloucester Rural and North Devon Branches and it was decided to recommend that the following branches be allowed to retain the extra 5% rebate on subscriptions: Devon County, Dorset, Gloucester Rural, Somerset, Wiltshire County.

The honorary secretary reported as to the rules which had been formulated in connection with the "Newman" Football Trophy Competition. Mr. A. G. Billing (Plymouth) kindly undertook to act as hon. sports secretary for the district. The hope was expressed that this would be the beginning of Nalgo's activities in the field of sports generally throughout the district and that other sports competitions between branches in the district would be undertaken. Grants from the "Help Yourself" Fund were made to Paignton Cottage Hospital, Royal Cornwall Hospital, Ilfracombe Cottage Hospital, Gloucester Children's Hospital and Paulton Cottage Hospital.

The committee were invited to hold their next Quarterly meeting at Plymouth on October 2.

At the conclusion of the meeting the District Committee entertained the Chairman of the Urban District Council, Major Thomas, and the Clerk to the U.D.C., Major Brede, to Luncheon at the Collingwood Hotel, Ilfracombe.

Competition

Best Report of the Year

The Municipal Journal considers that every well-governed local authority should present an annual report in an attractive form. It was with the object of fostering this movement that last year *The Municipal Journal* instituted an annual competition among local authorities for the best report of the year. The awards are a gold medallion, suitably mounted, with provision for an annual inscription thereon and a medal, as the first award, and medals for those authorities taking second and third places.

Documents submitted should cover the year ended March 31, 1937, for England and Wales, and the year ended May 15, 1937, for Scotland.

The adjudicators will be the same as last year, namely:

Mr. Arthur Collins, F.S.A.A., Financial Adviser to Local Authorities.

Sir George Etherton, O.B.E., Clerk of the Lancashire County Council.

Sir Gwilym Gibbon, formerly Principal Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Health.

Mr. G. Montagu Harris, O.B.E., President of the International Union of Local Authorities.

Mr. C. Kent Wright, B.A., Town Clerk of Stoke Newington.

The last day for the receipt of entries will be September 30 for England and Wales, and November 15 for Scotland.

Special attention should be given to:

(*a*) The appearance of the Report;
(*b*) the subject matter;
(*c*) the arrangements of the contents; and
(*d*) the method and range of distribution of the Report.

Full particulars of the Competition may be obtained from *The Municipal Journal*, 3-4, Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2.

National Fitness

and Local Authorities

There is a considerable amount of public interest in the subject matter of the paper which was read on the first day of the Annual Conference of the Institute of Park Administration (Incorporated), which took place at Harrogate from July 21 to 23, 1937. The paper was written and read by the Honourable Edward Cadogan on the National Fitness Campaign, and the part of the Local Authorities and Public Parks Administrators in it.

The second edition of "**Hart's Local Government Act, 1933,**" prepared by Charles E. Scholefield following the death of Mr. G. E. Hart, has been published by Butterworth & Co. at 25s.

The **prospectus** for 1937-38 of the Union of Lancashire and Cheshire Institutes has been issued. Copies may be had at 1s. 6d. each. The prospectus draws attention to important changes in the Union's schemes and syllabuses for the forthcoming session.

Sincere congratulations are extended to Mr. R. A. Reay-Nadin, Town Clerk of Sutton Coldfield, on his appointment to the Bench as a Justice of the Peace.

Dudley Branch Re-formed

Dudley.—The Branch has recently been re-formed, and keen interest in the Association is being shown by all the Officers of the Council.

Mr. G. C. V. Cant, Town Clerk, has been elected President; Dr. P. S. Blaker, Medical Officer; Mr. G. N. Duffield, Borough Treasurer, and Mr. F. H. Gibbons, Borough Surveyor, Vice-Presidents; Mr. A. H. Backler, Hon. Secretary; Mr. G. T. Lawley, Hon. Treasurer; and Mr. B. Stewart Wood, Hon. B. & O. Secretary. Mr. G. A. Lord is Chairman of the Executive Committee and Mr. E. T. Smith, Deputy Town Clerk, Vice-Chairman; Mr. H. H. Martin, Chairman of the Socials Committee, and Mr. H. Richardson, Hon. Secretary.

A general meeting was held on June 22, Mr. Cant was chairman, and the attendance included nearly the whole staff.

A summer-programme is being arranged, and there is good augury of an interested and successful Branch.

KENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Beckenham Technical Institute and Junior Evening Institutes

Session 1937-38

Teachers are required for Evening Classes in the following subjects:—

Shorthand **Typewriting**
Commerce **Economics**
Mercantile Law

Full particulars can be obtained from the Principal of the Technical Institute, Beckenham, to whom applications stating training and experience in industry and teaching should be submitted not later than—

Friday, 27th August, 1937.

G. CREASE, District Secretary,
292, Kent House Road,
Beckenham.

FLATULENCE

Although Flatulence is such an unpleasant and painful form of Indigestion, it is one that can be made to yield to suitable treatment in quite a short time. Usually the distension (fullness) of the stomach is produced by gas or "wind." This, in turn, is the direct result of an excess of acidity in the stomach. You will realise, therefore, how essential it becomes to avoid the formation of excessive acidity. Alkali is the normal neutraliser of acid: that is why alkaline treatment is usually prescribed to deal with acidity.

Maclean Brand Stomach Powder is the safest and most effective alkaline powder. As soon as it reaches the stomach, excess acidity is neutralised in a twinkling. You feel the soothing effect inside you at once. The blown-out sensation of flatulence passes away, and comfort in the waistline is restored as if by magic.

Sufferers from flatulence should take Maclean Brand Stomach Powder regularly—not only because of the *instant relief* it brings, but for a much more important reason. A neglected acid condition paves the way for the most serious forms of stomach trouble—the dreaded gastric and duodenal ulcer. The flatulent subject must avoid that danger at any cost. MACLEAN BRAND Stomach Powder keeps the stomach clean and acid-free so that ulcers never get a footing. Take it regularly, but be sure you get the powder with the signature, "ALEX. C. MACLEAN" on the bottle. Powder or tablets, 1/3, 2/-, 5/-. Never sold loose.

Letters to the Editor

Correspondence is invited, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the views expressed by correspondents. No letter will be published unless accompanied by the name and address of the sender, but a nom de plume may be sent for publication. The Editor wishes to devote space to all the letters which he receives for publication, but he cannot do this unless correspondents will make their letters "short and sweet." He reserves to himself the right to shorten letters, so as to publish more of all rather than much of a few.

A code of professional conduct

Sir,—The motion on the above subject approved with acclamation by delegates at the Margate Conference is sheer bunk and drivel. It is amazing to think that over one thousand delegates sat in conference on Whit Monday afternoon and listened to an address as though they were a crowd of schoolchildren.

A very grave injustice to the prestige of the Association, and each member would be affected should the N.E.C. attempt to regulate the conduct of members on such premises as the iniquity of gambling, bribery, or lack of courtesy in dealing with the public unless sufficient evidence, which I am sure the N.E.C. do not possess, is available of the existence of such practices.

It requires very little intelligence to eulogise an ideal and no effort to vote for it, but a great deal of intelligence and effort is required to convert an ideal into a reality. Perhaps it may be a practical contribution to this subject to anticipate the methods of approach open to the N.E.C. when they come to prepare a code of professional conduct for submission to the 1938 conference.

The code can be prepared by:

1. Involving the Association in a policy of International Service.
2. Affiliation of the Association to any political party, whose policy is to improve the standard of living of the community.
3. Urging every member of the Association to undertake outside office hours an active interest in social service in one or more of its many forms.
4. Framing a policy of community service for each individual member through Vocational Service.

Propositions one and two would be immediately rejected because they would involve the Association in party politics. We rejected at Margate a proposal to give financial assistance to suffering humanity in Spain, and last year at Aberdeen rejected a proposal to become affiliated to the T.U.C. Proposition number three should be rejected as it would be an attempt to restrict the freedom of the individual member.

Proposition number four is the one and only proposal worthy of examination and it simply means service to the community by each member through his official vocation. I respectfully submit the N.E.C. cannot approach the problem effectively from any other angle. That surely cannot be contradicted. Every member is entitled to his own individuality and occupies a place of his own. We expect to be recognised by what is distinctive in us and, therefore, we are bound to identify our humanity with our special calling, or vocation, which is our only medium of exchange, and through it our humanity seeks expression.

Therefore, however efficiently or inefficiently a member is carrying out his job, he is rendering through his vocation, some service to the community.

The ideology at the back of the present policy of N.A.L.G.O. has as its object the very utopian ideal the motion is supposed to create. The N.E.C. for the past twenty-five years have been preparing three main avenues to reach this ideal and to bring it to a practical realization whereby members will be enabled to give more efficient service to humanity through their respective official vocations.

The present policy may be divided into three main avenues with aims as follows:

Education.

The Association's present educational policy is to grant every facility to the junior officer in the service to become vocationally qualified. The contributions of members are used for the purpose of grants to District Committees who are organising Area Education Committees. Loans are granted; Summer Schools organised; the Correspondence Institute is available; all done to enable the junior officer to become more efficient at his job and therefore capable of giving more efficient service to the community.

The majority of our junior members realize they cannot expect future advancement unless they avail themselves of the facilities offered. The lack of enthusiasm they display for N.A.L.G.O. may be due to their absorbing desire to make good in the service—and who can blame them.

National Scale of Salaries.

This avenue is in a chaotic condition and requires careful attention before the ideal of national scale of salaries can become operative. It would be rank hypocrisy for the N.E.C. to preach community service when such a vast majority of our members are unable to render efficient community service through their vocations on account of a meagre standard of living determined by the lowness of the salary received. Thousands of members continuously strive year after year to keep up appearances and make ends meet financially. In hundreds of cases this constant striving enters the sub-conscious minds of members and grows into a phobia which operates to reduce vocational efficiency. Almost every branch officer knows of junior members who are unable to take advantage of educational facilities because they cannot afford to.

The Association should realize that the majority of their members receive inadequate remuneration, determined by trade and often political conditions in their own locality. We ought to be thankful such members pay their subscriptions instead of baldly denouncing the apathy it is alleged has encompassed them.

Service Conditions.

Considerable progress has been made along this avenue, and the Association has just cause to be proud of the progress registered. Is it not reasonable to assume that the twenty thousand members who will benefit by the passing of the Compulsory Superannuation Bill will not instinctively give better service in their vocations for the ultimate benefit of the community? Has not the fear and dread of arriving at a retiring age without adequate means been removed from their minds? Of course it has, and they or you and I, in their positions, could then work with added zeal.

Differences of a major and minor character are always arising between members and their employers, and the policy of aiming at an ideal in the form of a complete system of Whitley Councils will allow such differences to be dealt with, and not nursed by the aggrieved members to the detriment of their jobs.

The policy of the Association in creating advantages for members through ancillary activities is perfectly sound in that it has attracted a large number of new members whose subscriptions are used to further the settled policy of N.A.L.G.O. One ancillary activity is a scheme to enable our impecunious brethren within the service to find the wherewithal to satisfy the material needs of those wonderful benefactors of humanity, the Medical Profession, after they have attended to the bodily ailments of our apathetic, and other (if any), members.

I submit the present policy of the Association is slowly sowing the seeds for a code of Professional Conduct within the intellect of the members and when the idealism of the policy becomes wholly in practical operation then, and not a day earlier, will our code be available and will operate automatically for the benefit of humanity, and apathy towards N.A.L.G.O. will then vanish. Status would be raised to the exclusion of a lazy and incompetent minority.

In the interim it remains for we who have long ago visualised this ideology to steadfastly support the N.E.C. in endeavouring to attain these objects.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. Brown.

Sir,—The difficulty about any form of discussion is the definition of terms. People often differ because they are not talking about the same thing. For example, I am not sure what Mr. E. M. Bettenson means by "virtue." If he says that "virtues (i.e., moral excellences) flourish best where economic cares do not oppress," I can only reply that this is contrary to my experience of life.

This matter of a Code is surely a simple one. Two milk combines, or two greengrocers, will use business methods in competition with each other which would be regarded by accountants or doctors as unprofessional, not because the methods were immoral or unethical, but because they had agreed among themselves not to use them. A new entrant to any profession has the right to know what are the recognised rules which should control his conduct towards other members of the profession and in his business generally. The N.E.C. has undertaken to draw up a code of rules for the Local Government Service, which may answer such questions as these:

1. Is it permissible for an officer, seeking promotion or a new appointment, to use any influence other than that of his personal professional qualifications and experience?
2. May a senior officer report unfavourably upon the conduct or service of a subordinate, without first notifying the latter of the terms of the report?
3. Is it unprofessional for a local government officer to use for his private and personal profit or advantage any knowledge gained in the course of his official duties?
4. How far ought a local government officer to restrict his private and social relations with individual members of his authority?

If the Local Government Service is to acquire professional status, the members must adopt the accepted standards of conduct common among professional men, and, as in sport, these standards are not always set down in the rules. There is a story told of Lord Hawke, who was discussing the rules of cricket with a young enthusiast. He was asked whether there was anything in the rules to prevent a bowler from going up to the wicket,

pretending to bowl, and, when the batsman left the crease, running him out. Lord Hawke replied that there was nothing in the rules to prevent it, unless you happened to be a gentleman.

Yours faithfully, "ORLEX."

Sir,—May I through your columns draw the attention of your readers to the unsatisfactory conditions which obtain throughout the country with regard to a large body of public servants allied to our own Local Government Service?

The workers referred to are those employed chiefly by the County Councils as labourers on road and other schemes. For a 50-hour week's work in all winds and weathers, these roadmen get a mere 33s., from which Insurance has to be deducted. A family has to exist on 31s. 5d. a week, with rent and rates covering possibly 7s. 6d. of that! In more practical language, this means that rarely can more than 2d. per head per meal be spent. The Unemployment Insurance rate for an average family of man, wife, and three children is 35s. clear—surely low enough; for a week's hard work the reward is 31s. 5d. clear. Further, the men enjoy no security of tenure, and are usually considered as casual labour.

Can this inhuman state of affairs be justified on any grounds whatsoever? Surely the policy of low wages and bad conditions reacts against those councils employing it, since it removes all incentive to do a job well, and destroys the dignity of labour. True, some few authorities are taking a more human view and are granting holidays with pay, etc., but there are no compulsory agreements about it, and there should be.

There are probably many of your elder members who will try to impute some political motive behind this letter, but I suggest to the more reasonable among your readers that conditions such as these are a disgrace to our Local Government Service, which has every reason to be proud of its records in many fields.

What is our Organisation prepared to do to help its less fortunate comrades?

Yours, etc., D. H. BARNES.

Sir,—I have had the pleasure of attending several conferences of our National Association, and the most disappointing of the whole series was the one held at Margate. I heard many delegates give expression to the same point of view. Having arrived at this decision one is left wondering what is the matter with an organisation that has nearly 100,000 members. I am certain that I am expressing the opinion of a large number of our members when I say that the major reason why our National Conferences are becoming so insipid, is due to the fact that we are pursuing as an organisation a policy of isolation, which is tending more and more to keep us out of touch with the trend of modern Trade Unionism.

Take the case of the debate that took place on the question of affiliation to the Trades Union Congress at Aberdeen. Will anyone say that this question received fair play from the platform; as a consequence a very bad impression was created in the minds of many of our fellow Trade Unionists throughout the country. That impression being that as an organisation we were not prepared to ally ourselves with any organisation that had for its object the raising of the general economic standard of the whole of the workers.

Again, take the question contained in the notice of motion for the relief of distress in Spain. If ever there was a question that was steam-rollered it was this one. I have a great admiration for Mr. Lloyd, our past president, in spite of this I am bound to say that in introducing the motion to conference he showed a bias and prejudice that was to say the least, regrettable.

In your "summing up" of the proceedings of the conference, you make no reference of the president, informing the meeting that the National Union of Clerks had turned down the question as being *ultra vires* to their constitution although in the report itself you do refer to the President's statement that "the real question was whether the funds of the Association were to be used for every humanitarian project." The latter statement had no relevancy to the notice of motion at all, as the motion simply asked the National Executive Committee to consider the desirability of making a donation to the non-combatants who were suffering as a result of the Civil War in Spain. The question of the funds of the Association being used for humanitarian purposes had been put right by the National Executive Committee itself, arising from Mr. Lloyd's attitude on the Gresford Fund donation.

Let me sum up by saying that from the standpoint of voting on matters of vital interest, it seems to me that it is the number with the greatest lung power that will (unless things are altered in the future) always carry the day. I make this statement because, if the debate on the Spanish question had been allowed to become "fast and furious," and a proper vote had been taken we should have had an altogether different decision.

Yours faithfully, A. J. COTTLE.

New Town Hall

A new town hall is a new monument—a monument to the activities of those who have been elected to manage the affairs of their fellow citizens.

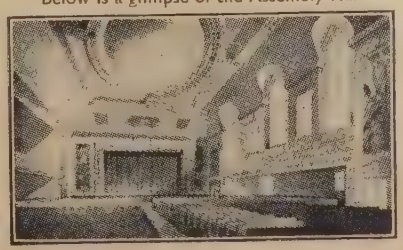
St. Pancras is justly proud of the magnificent building which was declared open by the Mayor on Thursday July 1, but their pride is not merely in the possession of something beautiful; their pride is in the possession of a new instrument with an enormous power for good. The new town hall will house a machine which will assist in the process of changing the raw material into the finished article; that is, the imperfect state of this country's people to-day into the perfectly governed, prosperous and orderly community of to-morrow. If the machinery should come to a standstill the monument becomes a memorial. A great deal of money has been spent in equipping St. Pancras with the best possible "machinery." The capital cost is in the vicinity of £250,000. Although the immediate maintenance costs are likely to be heavier than in the case of the Old Town Hall the difficulties of administration and the expense involved by the present wide distribution of the various departments of the Council, will be overcome.

The building is a steel-framed, fireproof structure, with Portland stone facings, and sloping roofs covered with thick green Westmorland slates. The building consists of four storeys.

The architect is Mr. Albert J. Thomas, F.R.I.B.A., of 31a, Sloane Street, S.W.1, and the contractors, Messrs. Dove Brothers, Ltd., of Cloudesley Place, Islington, N.1.

The main entrance to the Town Hall is from Judd Street, through a vestibule, into an entrance hall of 27 ft. square, from which radiate corridors. The staircase, of Sicilian white marble, is spacious and most artistic. On either side of the entrance hall passenger lifts are provided to all floors.

Below is a glimpse of the Assembly Hall



All Mankind's Concern

Weekly Allowances

A widow aged 69 years has been left practically destitute on the death of her husband, with the exception of 10s. per week pension. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is making a substantial weekly allowance until such time as the widow's circumstances improve.

A member aged 30 years had to relinquish her appointment in the Service in 1932 owing to ill-health. Since that time she has spent all her savings in specialist's fees, surgical appliances, etc. Her only income is 6s. per week National Health Insurance, and she is at present residing with her married sister who found it a heavy burden to maintain the member as well as her own family. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is making a weekly grant in this case to enable the member to make a contribution to her sister towards the cost of her maintenance.

A member aged 33 years was found to be suffering from tuberculosis and was recommended by his doctor to secure six months' treatment at the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor. He has a wife and son aged one year dependent upon him and his salary is insufficient to allow him to take advantage of treatment at Ventnor without financial assistance. An application was, therefore, made by his local Branch to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund which resulted in a Letter of Recommendation being issued and also a grant towards the cost of the hospital fees.

Lump Sum Grants

A member aged 41 years with a wife and two young children dependent upon him fell into debt owing to the illness of his wife with a nervous breakdown which lasted over a period of nine months. This illness exhausted the member's savings. The member is also the main support of his aged mother. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund made a lump sum grant to this member to enable him to settle outstanding accounts, etc.

A young member aged 26 years with a wife and son aged 2 years found that owing to his small income he was unable to afford to meet the cost of medical treatment urgently required by his wife. The Branch made application to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund and a lump sum grant was made sufficient to pay for the cost of the treatment.

Temporary Loans

A member aged 54 years with a wife dependent upon him has experienced considerable financial difficulty recently owing to the very serious illness of his wife. The member himself is only just recovering from an illness which lasted three months and has been advised by his doctor to obtain convalescent home treatment. The member found that owing to his financial position he was unable to afford to go away for treatment and the Benevolent and Orphan Fund has, therefore, made a loan in this case.

Meetings

District Committees, etc.

North-Western and North Wales District Committee

A special meeting of the North-Western and North Wales District Committee was held at the Town Hall, Manchester, on Saturday, July 10, 1937, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. W. Singleton. Approximately 150 delegates attended.

A report of the Annual Conference at Margate was submitted by the District Committee's two representatives, **Messrs. L. H. Taylor** (Salford) and **A. A. Clark** (Bolton).

In view of the retirement of the Chairman **Mr. W. H. Whinnerah,** the District Committee accepted the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee, then submitted, to appoint **Mr. J. W. Singleton** (Accrington) as Chairman of the District for the remainder of the year, and **Mr. T. Freeman** (Manchester) as Vice-Chairman. The resignation of **Mr. F. J. Willett,** Hon. Secretary, on the grounds of ill-health, was received with much regret, and the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee to appoint **Mr. L. H. Taylor** (Salford) as Hon. Secretary for the remainder of the year was also confirmed.

The recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in regard to the alteration of rules affecting the constitution of that committee and allocation of seats on the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council Staffs' Side were accepted with two alterations.

It was resolved to appoint two representatives to the North Wales Council of the Workers' Educational Association.

Retirement of Chairman.

Mr. J. W. Singleton referred to the retirement from the Local Government Service and consequently from the District Committee of **Mr. W. H. Whinnerah.** Mr. Whinnerah was asked to accept a Silver Cigarette Case, with the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. W. H. Whinnerah by the North-Western and North Wales District Committee of N.A.L.G.O. in appreciation of his services 1926-1937," and a cheque, as a token of appreciation of the very valuable work he had performed for N.A.L.G.O. in the District.

Mr. Whinnerah, in reply, thanked the members of the Committee for their kind wishes for his future, and for the handsome gifts which had been made to him. He referred to the Act of 1922, in connection with his work on superannuation, and to the pleasure he had experienced in visiting many branches in the district.

In accordance with the new rules of the Association, the appointment of a B. & O. Fund Secretary was made, resulting in the appointment of **Mr. H. Russell** (Stockport), who has done such good work as Hon. Secretary of the Regional Committee. Members were elected to the B. & O. Fund Sub-Committee.

Mr. E. H. Mason (Manchester) dealt with the report of the National Executive Council as regards the Public Relations Committee, of which a report is given on another page.

He announced to the District Committee that Mr. Freeman had been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Mr. J. H. Warren (Newton-in-Makerfield) dealt with matters relating to the Law and Parliamentary Committee, and, particularly, to the Compulsory Superannuation Bill, enumerating the following points: (1) The inclusion of temporary employees in the provisions of the Bill, which would prevent Local Authorities in future from evading the provisions of superannuation by carrying on temporary employees for an indefinite period of time without providing superannuation; (2) Transfer of Service—all past service to be counted and an option given to commute such part of that service as may be non-contributory into contributory service on the payment of a calculable amount: (3) If a man in the latter period of his service is transferred to lighter duties the Bill provides him with an option of contributing at the old rate and so securing the full amount of pension. A parallel provision, but designed to meet rather different circumstances, is one that provides that where a man has suffered a reduction of pay through sickness during the last 5 years on the basis of which pension is calculable, there should be a total disregard of that reduced pay with the consequence that he counts his full average remuneration for the final 5 years of service: (4) That an officer can agree, on terms, to assign a portion of his pension to his widow; (5) Nurses and Health Visitors have secured a provision that they can retire at 60 years, with an option that they can retire at 55 years if they have 35 years service; (6) Certain officers who were not previously superannuable have been brought in, including Justices' Clerks, Registration Officers, and part-time administrative employees of non-provided schools, etc.

Mr. L. H. Taylor (Salford) also contributed to the report of the National Executive Council and made reference to the appointment of Mr. J. W. Wilkinson (Southport) as Chairman of the National Executive Council. Mr. Taylor reported proceedings with regard to the Provident Society given in detail on another page. Mr. Taylor also referred to matters dealt with at the Conditions of Service Committee. Owing to the transfer of Mr. G. Leach (Darwen) from the district the position of Hon. Auditor became vacant to which **Mr. F. T. Bromley** (Wigan) was appointed.

The next meeting of the District Committee will take place on September 25, 1937, at Salford.

Yorkshire District Committee

A Special Meeting of the District Committee was held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wakefield, on Saturday, June 26, 1937. The President of the Association, **Mr. W. W. Armitage,** occupied the Chair, and there was a large attendance of representatives from Branches in the area. At the outset of the proceedings, the President referred to the Local Government Superannuation Bill, which had passed through the Committee Stage in the House of Commons during the preceding week.

The Committee received the report of **Mr. W. Donnan** and **Mr. R. Wildgoose,** the representatives to the Annual Conference of the Association, who commented on the more important items which had been discussed.

The District Committee then considered a comprehensive report submitted by the Executive Committee in connection with an inquiry regarding salaries, grading and service conditions. All Branches in the area had been circularised, and tabulated statements of the replies received had been considered by the Executive Committee. The report indicated that grading schemes had been adopted by 44 Authorities, and it was pointed out that in the case of a large number of Authorities a relatively small number of officers was employed, and it was felt that the adoption of comprehensive grading schemes in such cases was almost impracticable. Other items covered by the report included entrance qualifications, temporary staffs, overtime, joint committees, interchange of officers and filling of vacancies, co-ordination in grading, and incremental progression.

The report was adopted unanimously, and the Executive Committee was authorized to implement the various recommendations.

East Midlands District Committee

A meeting of the District Committee was held at the Guildhall, Nottingham, on July 10. **Mr. H. S. Sherwin** presided. Unfortunately, the attendance was not as good as usual. It was reported that grants had been made to a number of members to enable them to attend the Association's Summer Schools. The Committee approved a recommendation that as a general principle grants should only be made to students who are studying for approved examinations and who have not previously received a grant.

The Divisional Secretary reported the formation of new Branches at Brigg and Hinckley, and that legal aid had recently been given to three members in the District.

The Divisional Secretary also submitted statistics showing contributions made by the District to the B. & O. Fund during the last five years, and urged the desirability of steps to increase interest in the Fund. It was decided to refer the matter to the new B. & O. Committee for the committee to consider what steps should be taken to increase the income from the District.

It was reported that the highest aggregate contribution to the B. & O. Fund last year was from the Leicester City Branch (£127 10s. 8d.), and the highest contribution per member was from the Rutland County Branch (8s. 1d.).

Mr. John Chaston reported on proceedings of the National Executive Council, particularly regarding the McGowan Report on Electricity Distribution and the Superannuation Bill. Mr. Chaston expressed satisfaction that the Association's effort over many years to obtain a compulsory Superannuation Act would be realised this session of Parliament, and recalled that his first visit to Nottingham in connection with N.A.L.G.O. was in 1908, when a meeting of the National Council was held to consider the draft of a Superannuation Bill.

The Chairman reported upon the Annual Conference, and on his own and Mr. Pepper's behalf thanked the committee for sending them.

Notts County Council

The summer meeting of the branch was held at Loughborough College by kind permission of the Governors and the Principal (Dr. H. Schofield.)

The function was thoroughly enjoyed by a large party, the visitors including Mr. Lucas E. Rumsey, Clerk of the Leicester County Council.

Mr. Harman, Chairman of the branch, referred to the progress made, but regretted that more help was not being given to the B. & O. Fund. Mr. Harman strongly pleaded with his colleagues to do more for the Fund, which is so deserving, and which needs largely increased contributions if its generous aid is to be continued.

The College Authorities were warmly thanked for allowing the meeting to be held.

(*South Western District Committee Report is contained on page* 215.)

Salaries and Service Conditions

SALARIES

Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council.—An application for the adoption of a Salaries and Grading Scheme, together with appropriate Service Conditions regulations, has been made to the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council on behalf of the Staffs.

The Divisional Secretary interviewed the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Council on July 6, 1937, in support of the application.

* * *

The **Edmonton** U.D.C. has adopted revised scales of salaries submitted by the branch with the object of bringing the existing scheme into line with the Scale 3 maxima recommended by the Association. Grades A and B are to be continuous, subject to satisfactory service, rising to £300 per annum at thirty-one years of age. The new scales are to operate as from September 1.

* * *

The **Port of London Authority**, as a result of representations by the Divisional Secretary, has granted an allowance of 1s. per occasion to clerical staff when engaged on early duties at the West Smithfield Cold Stores.

Nottingham.—A revised scale for women clerks up to age 21 has been approved.

Barry.—Revised salaries have been approved to operate from April 1 last. About 70 Officers will enjoy improved rates of pay. The revision was negotiated through the Staff Joint Committee.

SUPERANNUATION

Lepton Urban District Council and **Wharfedale** Rural District Council have adopted the Act with effect from October 1, 1937.

Formal applications for the adoption of the Act have been forwarded on behalf of the staffs of the **Swinton and Mexborough** Gas Board and the **Swinton** Urban District Council.

Pudsey Borough Council has also been interviewed in this connexion.

At a special meeting of the **Dewsbury** Town Council held on July 15, 1937, it was decided to adopt the Act as from April 1, 1938, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health of a modified scheme.

The proposals include that all employees of the Corporation shall come within the scheme, but that those who are subject to the National Health Insurance Acts shall have excluded from deductions and from superannuation benefit the first £1 of their weekly salary.

Tipton Urban District Council has adopted the 1922 Act from July 1. The designated posts are 54 officers and 259 workmen.

The Borough of **Stourbridge** has passed the first resolution to adopt the Act from October 1. The scheme applies to 82 officers and 120 workmen.

The **East Kesteven** Rural District Council adopted the Act from July 1.

West Bromwich Corporation has agreed to pay 80ths for non-contributing service.

The following Local Authorities have decided to obtain Actuarial Reports:

Brownhills Urban District Council.
Mountain Ash Urban District Council
Sleaford Urban District Council.

Applications to consider the adoption of Schemes have been made to:

Monmouth Borough Council.
Aberdare Urban District Council.
Biddulph Urban District Council.
Carlton Urban District Council.
Eastwood Urban District Council.
Mablethorpe and Sutton Urban District Council.
Cheadle Rural District Council.
Bingham Rural District Council.
Monmouth Rural District Council.

SERVICE CONDITIONS

The frequency with which the majority of relieving officers under the **London County Council** are called upon for night duty has long been a sore point. Various schemes to relieve the position have been put before the Public Assistance Staff Sub-Committee.

It is believed that the proposals submitted by the L.C.C. Branch, involving the employment of assistant relieving officers at sub-offices classified as "B" stations under the direction of relieving officers at main offices classified as "A" stations, are acceptable in principle. The branch is conducting a referendum amongst the whole of the assistant relieving officers and relief clerks, whether members of N.A.L.G.O. or not. If the scheme is eventually adopted the sharing of responsibilities by the assistant relieving officers will considerably extend the night duty rota.

At the present time most assistants have to be in attendance up to 10 p.m. in any case when their relieving officer is on night duty.

* * *

The **Hertfordshire** County Council has adopted a scheme for the recognition of vocational qualifications attained by members of the staff. On the passing of the Intermediate Examination of certain bodies a cash payment is to be granted equivalent to a normal scale increment in salary. A further scale increment is to be given on securing a final certificate, and certain examinations also carry a special cash payment of £25. A list of examinations to be recognised as appropriate to the various departments has been laid down.

Cardiff.—In connexion with the new scale of holidays, it has been agreed that the Transport Inspectors shall have three additional working days added to their annual holiday in lieu of Bank Holidays.

Smethwick.—The Council has agreed that all employees who are Territorials shall be granted fifteen days' leave with pay to attend camp in addition to the normal summer holiday.

Wolverhampton.—The following holiday scale has been adopted:

After 3 months' service—2 working days.
After 6 months' service—4 working days.
After 9 months' service—6 working days.
After 1 year's service—10 working days.
After 5 years' service—14 working days.
After 10 years' service—18 working days.

Officers in Grade D.1. (£300-£10-£360) and over to have 18 working days irrespective of years of service.

Service with other Local Authorities to count and no existing officer to be prejudicially affected

Carlisle.—At a meeting of the Carlisle Council held on July 13, it was decided that the Corporation should adopt the scales of salaries and grading scheme submitted by the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council, and also to affiliate with the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council.

Barrow-in-Furness.—The Barrow Corporation have requested the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council to prepare a model grading scheme for the whole of the staff of the Corporation.

Rochdale.—The Rochdale Corporation have requested the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council to prepare a model grading scheme for the whole of the staff of the Corporation.

Old Halls—tell tales

The article on Exeter Guildhall which follows was culled from an American publication. It is a typical expression of the admiration and reverence which the American mind maintains for buildings of antiquity in this country.

"A novel way to relate the history of a town is to trace the march of events through an ancient municipal building. In Exeter, England, there still stands a building whose origin is lost in the dimness of another age. The earliest reference that can be found to the Exeter Guildhall is in a deed of about 1160, and subsequent deeds identify, beyond reasonable doubt, the existing building with the Guildhall of that year. Only portions of the main wall, however, have survived from the original Norman or Saxon structure, the remainder as it stands to-day being composed of a curious mixture of alterations of different style.

"For eight centuries or more the Guildhall has been the heart of the civic life of Exeter. In olden times it not only housed the directors of public affairs, but contained the benches whereon legal agreements between citizens were witnessed and signed, the grim court of justice, the prison house, the armory, fire equipment, and a chapel. Often, too, its rooms were the scene of civic feasts and revels. An ancient bell, still suspended in the roof, used to summon the meetings and ring on occasions of rejoicings. Only the rapid expansion of municipal activities within the last half-century has necessitated a more specialized use of the Guildhall. Municipal offices, courts, and police station have been established in new buildings, while the "Ancient Monument" (so scheduled by the Office of Works of the United Kingdom) is reserved for the more important functions, the meetings of the City Council, the Assize Court and the Court of Quarter Sessions, mayoral social functions and such conferences and public meetings as the mayor may sanction."

Truth will out

One of the clerks in the Borough Treasurer's department had been granted by Luton Corporation leave of absence, with full salary, to attend the "Nalgo" Summer School at Oxford from July 17 to 24.

"What is Nalgo?" asked Councillor W. G. Roberts with well-feigned innocence when the recommendation came before the council. The answer he got was one, I will warrant, he never expected.

The Town Clerk took the question in hand. This was his answer: "The organisation that keeps local government going."

Pretty rough on the mayor, aldermen, and councillors, was it not?

Home Gardening

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens," "The Wright Encyclopedia of Gardening," etc.

THE main holiday month being with us again, one may suppose quite a number of readers hoping to be told that there is nothing very important to do in the garden, which may be left to take care of itself. Well, that is expecting a lot, but provided previous hints have been acted on faithfully, one may concede a point, not however without a warning that it is quite possible for the hottest spell of the summer to come this month, creating increased rather than reduced demands for water and ventilation.

It is in such circumstances that the holiday-maker appreciates the help of a sympathetic neighbour, who can be trusted to see that things do not go seriously amiss. Without such a friend, there may be cases in which it is desirable to make terms with a neighbouring florist, either to take temporary possession of valuable pot plants or to send an assistant to deal with vital matters on the spot.

But with no holiday spell in view, what can be done in August to advantage? To begin with, one may mention that mid-August and early September are often good periods for sowing lawn grass seeds, because the soil is generally very warm; but the conditions are not equally favourable every year, because of the varying quantities of moisture in it. Given warm soil which is also moist, the way is clear, for the plants are likely to be through in a week from sowing, and the bird problem is therefore a brief one. Yet it exists, and must be considered. In the absence of enough fish-netting to cover the whole of the sown area, most people resort to black thread stretched a few inches above the soil, the strands four to six inches apart (widely-spaced lengths are useless). An alternative plan is to string or wire small pieces of glass and suspend them over the bed on sloping stakes, so that they can swing. With the sun shining there is no better plan, for birds will not go on to the bed when the glass is flashing. In dull weather, however, they ignore the glass, as careful observation has taught me.

I will pause for a few moments' consideration of the bird question, which is many-sided. I have often been asked by visitors whether my lily pool does not attract increased quantities of birds, which, coming in search of water to sip, subsequently stay and cause enhanced trouble. The reply is that I do have large numbers of birds of various kinds, many of which fly direct to the pool. All do not stay, however. A great many—perhaps the majority—fly away again directly they have quenched their thirst.

It is perhaps not so well known by gardeners as it ought to be, that the internal temperature of birds is more than double that of human beings, and consequently they need proportionately larger quantities of water. They come for water again and again, and I do not discourage them for I think that, on the whole, the good they do outweighs the mischief they create. In the particular case of grass seeds, which small birds love, it is unquestionably desirable to exclude them from the bed for a week or two.

Birds or no, however, I would take pains to get the soil clear of weeds, and while thus turning it about to incorporate decayed animal manure or hop manure mixed with chemical fertiliser, both obtainable from seedsmen. I would also continue tillage until I had obtained a tilth both fine and level and made moderately firm. I would then mark the piece off in fairly narrow strips and sow both north and south and east and west, using up to two pounds of seed per square rod (30¼ square yards) omitting clover except in special cases, afterwards putting a light roller over the bed to press the seed in, but using no surface soil. That is the way to get a good lawn quickly, and if thus made the plot *will* be a good lawn by the following spring, for grass establishes itself firmly in the cool, moist weather of autumn.

The principal plants of the month should be Roses in their second great burst of beauty, early varieties of Dahlias, border Chrysanthemums, and Michaelmas Daisies; also Pentstemons if specialised. It is not too late to bud Roses, if Brier stocks are available, nor to layer Carnations, nor to put in cuttings of Pinks, but all these jobs should be done soon.

Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, and Michaelmas Daisies may all call for staking and perhaps watering. Staking and tying are apt to be tedious, but less so than of old, owing to the number of handy twine-rolls and other conveniences now available.

It is often advisable to do a certain amount of thinning with Dahlia branches after wet spells, as the plants tend to get crowded with lush shoots and the flowers are more or less obscured. Again, take care that the earwigs do not have it all their own way, but keep them in subjection through the medium of hay-lined flower-pot traps.

Some growers of Antirrhinums prefer cutting-raised to seedling plants. I do not think there is a great deal in it, but, anyway, there is no difficulty in propagating by cuttings provided the plants contain enough non-flowering growths to permit of three-inch shoots being taken. Such shoots root readily enough if inserted in sandy soil and kept close under a cloche or handlight, or in a frame at this season; but it must be remembered that the stock of plants is on hand much longer than seedlings raised in winter and that alone is an important consideration to amateurs with limited conveniences.

Zonal Geraniums are also in season for propagation, because at this period it is generally easy to detach small subsidiary shoots without injuring the main flowering growths, so that fresh stock is obtainable without impairing the rows. But failures are apt to ensue after wet spells because of the ultra-sappy condition of the shoots, and should be guarded against by partially drying the pieces in sunshine before insertion.

We, Sir, have a code

On March 5 last, at the Ipswich Branch Dinner, Mr. L. Chubb, in proposing the toast to the Mayor and Corporation, drew attention to a subject which was to occupy the attention of the delegates to the N.A.L.G.O. Conference at Margate in the following May. This subject, which he termed a "code of conduct," has since experienced several reverberations in the sphere of the local government service. Mr. Chubb said:

"Our philosophy of life is not circumscribed by the probability that we have a safe job and may retire at sixty. To embrace such an outlook would mean moral, spiritual, and mental death—not a life, but a lingering existence. We are full-blooded people, workers in fields of action who, in the short space of time allotted, each and everyone wishes to do his bit and play his part in making the world a better, brighter and happier place for mankind. It is honourable work, work of the greatest importance, and the manner in which it is carried out means much for the enrichment of human life within this ancient borough.

"Last year with the permission of my employing Committee I spent several weeks abroad. My journey took me to Marseilles—a city of evil reputation—so I played for safety and stayed at a super hotel. In the morning I received, with the compliments of the manager, a copy of the local paper—which, by good fortune for me, printed in full a decree of the Government, issued to regulate the conduct of officials. The regulations were not unlike Mr. Punch's advice to those about to marry—don't!—as they consisted solely of a series of negative clauses. Officials were forbidden to run a second business, receive commissions, etc., or, as the Americans would say, 'get away with the rake offs.'

"*We, in England, sir, have a code of conduct*—it has not been published in the press or in any other way—our code is a code of honour and under it the British municipal service has grown, through the inherent honesty of its direction and the integrity of its officials, until it is without equal in the world. We are keepers of the great tradition, and N.A.L.G.O. is interested in maintaining it."

Making Known the Debt

In the last issue of this journal an article appeared containing twelve suggestions on how best to make known the Debt in Public Well-being which the community owes to Local Government. One of the suggestions was that the youth of every town should be made civic minded with the co-operation of the necessary authorities; namely, Elementary and Secondary schools.

We have recently received a letter from R. W. Crammer, M.A., Headmaster of the City Boys' School of Leicester, informing us that a course of lectures on the Government and Public Services of the City of Leicester had been arranged for the senior boys of all Leicester's Secondary schools.

After each lecture there was an opportunity for questions and discussions. The lecturers kindly undertook to give some guidance either in the lectures, or during the discussion period about the academic qualifications, personal qualities, and further training required for entry into, and success in, the respective branches of the Local Government with which they dealt.

A silent film illustrative of various aspects of the Municipal Services was given at the end of the course.

Scottish Notes

Two Outstanding Events

The two outstanding events of the month are the adoption by the House of Commons of the Local Government Superannuation (Scotland) Bill and our Scottish Summer School at St. Andrews. The first of these is, of course, by far and away the more important for it will give superannuation rights to a large number of Local Government Officers in Scotland who, but for such a Measure and for the continuous and persistent efforts of our Association, could never have hoped to receive a pension on retiral. We anticipate that before these "Notes" are printed the Bill will have passed the Lords and have received the Royal Assent. As to our Summer School at St. Andrews, a full report will be found on page 201. Here, we need only say that both from an educational and social point of view the School was an unqualified success, despite the rather unfavourable weather conditions.

Stirlingshire

Our application to Stirling County Council for a revision of the Junior Grades has met with some success. It is a qualified success for we have not got all we asked, but it is a step in the right direction. The Grades have been altered as follows: Apprentice Grade from £30 to £70 has been made £40 to £80; Second Grade £80 to £130 has been made £90 to £140; First Grade £130 to £180 has been increased to £150 to £200. It has also been agreed to increase the two Female Grades for Clerkesses and Typists to—Juniors, £60 by £7 10s. to £90; Second Grade, £90 by £10 to £130. These are the recommendations of the Finance Committee which, it was anticipated, would be duly confirmed by the Public Meeting of the County Council on July 22.

Hamilton

A week or two ago a communication was sent to Hamilton Town Council regarding Superannuation and Salary Scales and asking that these be proceeded with forthwith. The Town Council at its meeting on July 13 favoured this application and remitted the question of the preparation of Schemes to the Finance Committee.

Dundee

On July 1 the Divisional Secretary appeared at the public meeting of the Council to oppose a recommendation of the Lord Provost's Committee to withdraw grants for passing certain approved examinations. The Divisional Secretary pointed out that this recommendation, if adopted, would be a retrograde step. It would in the first place be a blow to the poorer members of the staff who were anxious to go forward for examinations. To some of these poorer members our Association had made loans in order to help them to pay tuition fees, etc. It would not affect the members of the staff who were sons of well-to-do parents, quite able to meet the expenditure involved. Surely it was not the intention of the Council to penalize the less fortunate members of the staff. In the second place, it was a retrograde step because it was in the interests of the Council and of the community, as a whole, to encourage their young men to become thoroughly qualified. The Hadow Report was very emphatic on this point, and he quoted from that Report. The Committee, he understood, had decided to make this recommendation because so many examinations had been approved for grant purposes that, in the opinion of certain members, the resolutions on the subject had become unwieldy and unworkable.

In answer to this point he mentioned that the Government were now setting up a Central Advisory Committee which would have under consideration the examinations at present taken by Local Government Officers and would advise as to which of those were appropriate. He suggested that the Council remit back the Minute until the recommendations of this Central Advisory Committee had been received. When Mr. Mortimer spoke the impression left seemed to be that this was a reasonable suggestion, but it was not until some two hours later that the actual Minute came up for approval. In the interval there had been one or two squabbles over other matters and when finally the Minute came before the Council a majority voted for approval.

There is little money involved—some £50 to £100 per annum—but the decision is regrettable as showing what a Council, professing to be progressive, is capable of doing.

Superannuation Schemes

We are pleased to learn that two County Councils with whom we have been in touch for some time past regarding the adoption of Schemes have now decided to go forward with the matter and are having Actuarial Reports prepared. The County Councils referred to are those of Argyll and Inverness.

Annual Sports Day

We would remind our Scottish members that our Annual Sports Day this year is to be held at Perth on Saturday, September 11. The centre for the day will be in York House, Glasgow Road, Perth, where lunch and tea will be served. The following are particulars of the competitions, etc.

GOLF.—To be played on North Inch Golf Course.

Gentlemen's Stroke Competition—2 rounds for Trophy and Prize for best scratch score, and Two Prizes for best handicap scores.

Ladies' Stroke Competition—1 round for Trophy and Prize for best scratch score, and Prizes (according to entry) for best handicap scores.

Entrants must forward certified club handicaps, or two lowest scores and bogey of course, or L.G.U. handicap.

Entries not complying with the stipulated conditions will not be accepted.

BOWLING.—To be played on North and South Inch Bowling Greens.

Rink Competition for Trophy and Prizes.

Prizes will be awarded to winners and runners-up.

On this occasion 16 ends will be played in the forenoon and 15 ends in the afternoon—30 ends to count, and the extra end only to count in the event of a tie. There will be a fresh draw at the lunch interval and bowlers will then be instructed on which green they will play in the afternoon.

Entries will only be accepted for completed rinks.

TENNIS.—To be played on Darnhall Tennis Courts.

Ladies' and Gents' Singles Competition for Trophy and Prizes.

Entrance Fee: 2s. 6d. per player in each competition. (No further fee is chargeable.)

Starting Time: The competitions will commence at: Golf—9 a.m. onwards. Bowling and Tennis—10.30 a.m.

Note: The competitions will start prompt to the scheduled time.

In order to obviate confusion, no competitor may enter for more than one competition.

Last Date of Entry: Entries, accompanied by entry fee, must be in the hands of the Sports Secretary, Mr. S. H. Brodie, City Assessor's Office, 40, Cochrane Street, Glasgow, C.1, not later than Saturday, September 4, 1937.

Members and their friends are heartily invited to the tournament although not taking part in the games.

SCOTTISH EASTERN BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH

On the representation of the Branch, Roxburgh County Council have applied for and been granted a Certificate of Exception from Unemployment Insurance in respect of appointments on the technical and clerical staffs, and have decided to identify any of the employees eligible for exception who indicate to the Council that they desire to be excepted.

Now—a National Association of Shops Acts Inspectors

Many officers appointed as Inspectors under the Shops Acts, 1912 to 1936, by local authorities throughout the country, will be glad to learn that an organisation has now been formed to cater for their particular needs. Up to the present, these local government officers have been without any society or organisation in the activities of which they could participate to their mutual advantage. The Association now formed will, we feel sure, meet a very pressing need amongst this rapidly growing body of officers, and will prove of considerable value not only to the Inspectors themselves but to their local authorities and to the members of the public with whom they are in daily contact.

The Association has been inaugurated after very careful consideration by thirty Inspectors representative of seventeen important local authorities in the Metropolis who have drawn up a comprehensive set of rules and objects of association. These objects provide a wide scope for the activities of the Association and, among other things, show a very laudable effort in attempting to obtain uniformity of administration in all districts and in endeavouring to obtain the proper recognition which is the rightful due of these most important duties.

Membership of the Association is for those officers who are appointed under the Shops Acts and whose duties in that respect form a substantial part of their appointment. The annual subscription has been tentatively fixed at 10s. The Chairman of the Association is Mr. A. J. Holmes, Town Hall, Ealing, W.5., and the honorary secretary, Mr. T. B. Cloote, Council Offices, Wembley, who will be pleased to forward further particulars to those interested in the work of the Association.

General News

Here, There—

Reading and District Branch

We are pleased to welcome the appearance of the Reading Branch "Monthly Bulletin." This is circulated with the "Local Government Service," and proves a valuable means of keeping members informed of the many local activities of the Branch. In addition to this, special mention is made of one or two of the ancillaries of N.A.L.G.O. each month; in this way it is hoped to increase the extent to which members make use of these benefits.

* * *

Derbyshire.—The branch is making intensive endeavours to increase its contribution to the B. & O. Fund. Recent efforts include a Whist Drive organized by the members of the N.E. Sub-Branch which resulted in a donation of £6, while the sale of tickets by the staff Cricket Club in connection with the final of the Departmental Cricket Competition realised £2 15s. and a collection on the ground during the game brought in another £1.

* * *

The membership of the **Newark** Branch at the end of June, 1937, was 62. The branch has recently altered its rules so as to include officers of the Newark R.D.C. Membership of the staff of this authority will complete the membership for Nottinghamshire, as then every local authority in the county (rural district councils upwards) will be represented. The Branch recently made presentations to Mr. E. W. Fryer on obtaining an appointment with Bridlington Library, Mr. A. J. Midworth on removing to the Thurrock U.D.C. and Mr. G. R. Walker on his leaving Newark to take up the duties of Electricity Rental Clerk with the Worksop Corporation. The Branch has also arranged a presentation to Mr. A. Roe, who has been a member since 1914, on the occasion of his marriage. A Social Club has been recently established for Branch members, and like the familiar advertisement, is still going strong. The Table Tennis section is particularly strong, and has recently entertained several local teams.

* * *

Mr. F. R. Finch, formerly President and Chairman of the Metropolitan District Committee and a member of the National Executive Council, recently retired from the local government service and active participation in N.A.L.G.O.'s affairs, is now living at Teignmouth in Devonshire.

Personal

The Metropolitan District presented Mr. Finch with a motor boat; the present was not, of course, in existence, but took the form of a cheque. Mr. Finch has now acquired a Carvel-built motor boat, 16 ft. by 5 ft. 6 ins., Stuart petrol engine 4 h.p., built by Messrs. T. Bulley & Son, of Teignmouth. Mr. Finch writes: "The boat is now very much in evidence"; a fact borne out by the photograph with Mr. Finch at the wheel, in Teignmouth harbour.

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Congratulations are offered to **Mr. W. A. Shee,** on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Phyllis K. Pearson, at Zurich, Switzerland, on June 7, 1937. Mr. Shee was Hon. Secretary of the Kent County Branch of the National Poor Law Officers' Association when the Act of 1929 was passed transferring the work of the Guardians in Kent to the Kent County Council. His former colleagues recollect gratefully how he threw himself whole-heartedly into the work of the Guild when the fusion between N.A.L.G.O. and the N.P.L.O.A. took place, and for three years was chairman of the Executive Committee of the Guild.

A man of vision and enthusiasm, he was elected to the National Executive Council in 1935, but had to resign on his appointment as Public Assistance Officer of the County of Gloucestershire.

We offer our best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Shee for a long and happy married life.

* * *

It is pleasing to record that two members of the Newport Branch, **Messrs. T. D. Trowbridge** and **E. E. Gadd,** have recently been honoured by being invited to captain the Monmouthshire County Bowls team against Mid-Wales and Carmarthen, respectively, both of which matches were won.

Both gentlemen are members of the Newport N.A.L.G.O. Bowls Club.

* * *

Honour for Town Clerk of Leeds

In the presence of a large and distinguished gathering, Mr. Thomas Thornton, Town Clerk of Leeds, had the honour of the Freedom of the City of Leeds, conferred upon him on June 23, 1937.

Mr. Thornton has spent the whole of his municipal career in his native city, and succeeded the late Sir Robert Fox in 1924.

Expressing thanks for the signal honour which had been conferred upon him, Mr. Thornton said he looked upon the occasion as not only being personal to himself, but also as a tribute to Local Government Service in general, and to that of the Leeds Municipal Officers and Servants in particular.

After signing the Roll of Freemen, the Town Clerk was presented with a Scroll relating to the conferment, together with a silver bowl to commemorate the occasion, by Mr. Tom Coombs, the Lord Mayor of Leeds.

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Stanley H. Horrocks, F.L.A., has been appointed Chief Assistant at the Paddington Public Libraries—congratulations!

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It is hoped that a new chapter in the public life of the town has been opened with the report of the findings of Mr. Harold Lawson Murphy, K.C., the Commissioner appointed by the Minister of Health to conduct an inquiry into the Council's electricity undertaking. The inquiry took six days, and the Association afforded legal assistance. **Mr. William Welbury** (the Electrical Engineer) was represented by Mr. Trevor Morgan, K.C. and Mr. Temple Morris, K.C.

The report is a full and complete vindication of the honour and integrity of the Electrical Engineer, and the Council has unanimously resolved that a vote of confidence in Mr. Welbury shall be recorded in the minutes, and to furnish him with a certified copy of the resolution.

Mr. Welbury has been the victim of a bitter and sustained attack over a period of years. The Association congratulates him upon his courage during this trying experience and upon the result of the investigation.

Mr. Finch—the boat—and Teignmouth

— Obituaries —

We regret to report the death of Mr. R. R. Carr of Whitley and Monkseaton.

Mr. Carr entered the service of the Urban District Council in 1909 and for the past eighteen years occupied the position of Deputy Surveyor.

A member of the Whitley and Monkseaton Branch of the Association from its inception, Mr. Carr had acted as Honorary Secretary for the past eight years.

* * *

It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. Henry Paterson, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., Engineer and Surveyor to the Hebburn Urban District Council.

Mr. Paterson, who died on June 20, was Vice-President of this branch, and was an ardent worker for its formation. His loss will be deeply felt.

* * *

Mr. John Francis Day, of Bedford, died in hospital early on Saturday morning, June 26, 1937. He was seventy years of age, and had been ill for about three months.

Educated at Bedford Modern School he secured a post with the Kettering Urban District Council in 1894. He served the council for over forty years and became Deputy Town Surveyor.

The Municipal Service was represented at the funeral.

—and Everywhere

Staff Outings

The Slough Section of the **Windsor and District** Branch recently held their annual summer outing, the party numbering 26. A start was made from the Town Hall at 7.45 a.m. and Littlehampton was reached before noon. Tea was taken together at 5 p.m. and the return journey commenced at 6.15 p.m., Slough being reached just after 10 p.m. The weather was not brilliant, but this did not appear to have the slightest effect on the enjoyment of a thoroughly good outing.

Slough have also had a considerable amount of enjoyment from their cricket games this season, and although their recent games against Langley Ramblers C.C. and the well-known Aspro C.C. did not result in wins, hopes are high that the tables will be turned in the return games.

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On June 23 the **Barry** Branch caught the 8.14 a.m. train to Cardiff from whence they journeyed via Minehead to the Croyde Bay Holiday Camp. They arrived in time for lunch which was taken at 1.45 p.m. The journey from Minehead to the Centre was by way of the famous Porlock, through Lynton and Lynmouth. The return journey embraced Barnstaple, Barbrook and the well-known test hill Beggar's Roost. Watersmeet, one of the prettiest spots in a delightful district, was visited. The tour also included the Doone Valley, and tea was taken at the Lorna Doone Farm at Malmshead near Brendon.

It was a very interesting and picturesque trip, and it strikes one that Barry Branch have shown singular enterprise in arranging such a novel annual outing.

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Flintshire C. Branch

The Flint County Branch, under their new Hon. Secretary, Miss C. G. James, is becoming a very active unit of the North Wales organisation. Recently a well attended and enjoyable outing by motor coach visited Llanberis, Aber and Llandudno, etc. A very happy day amid very beautiful scenery was spent and the success of this venture augurs well for future years. A cricket match has also been played between a combined team from the Clerk's and Education Departments and a combined team from the Surveyor's and Accounts Departments. Although the game was not completed owing to bad light, it resulted in a virtual win for the Clerk's and Education team.

* * *

The **Poplar** Branch held a very successful outing to Margate on Wednesday, June 9 last, the function being well supported by the members. The journey was made by means of motor coaches and the trip through Kent was very enjoyable as was the luncheon which the party had at the Nayland Rock Hotel. This outing forms part of a comprehensive programme of events which the newly-formed Social Sub-Committee propose to arrange, and the satisfactory result of this function will greatly encourage them to go ahead with their proposed schemes

On Sunday, July 4, 1937, the members of the **Beverley and District** Branch, held their annual outing. This year the venue chosen was Ingleton and Wensleydale; and twenty-six members and friends spent a most enjoyable day.

Leaving Beverley by motor coach, at 8 a.m. and proceeding by York to Ripon, a short halt was made, and many members paid a visit to the cathedral. The route then lay through Masham, Middleham, famous for its racing stables, along Wensleydale from Leyburn to Hawes, and on to Ingleton, where lunch was taken. After lunch the majority of the party visited the glens and waterfalls and left Ingleton to arrive at Ilkley for tea. A short time was spent in looking round Ilkley, then the party left at 7.30 p.m., arriving home at 10 p.m.

Sport

NORTHUMBERLAND AND WALLSEND BRANCHES

Match play between the above Branches has taken place on the Wallsend and Benton Park Golf Courses recently, following a challenge issued on the eve of Wallsend's success in the annual bowls games between the branches. The game (fourball best ball) on the Wallsend course resulted in a win for Northumberland by three matches to one, with one match each halved. At Benton the teams each won two games, and halved two, the resultant draw being a popular reflection of the evening's play. Following the matches, the visitors in each case were entertained by the respective clubs to supper, and there is no doubt that the success enjoyed, will inspire all concerned to make this popular sports and social function an annual and outstanding event.

MIDDLESEX

Members of the County Council, Staff and their friends to the number of about 300, were present on the July 8, at Uxbridge, where Sir Howard Button again kindly secured the use of the Cricket Club Ground for the Staff.

The Cricket Match, Head Office versus Hospitals and Institutions, resulted in an easy win for the Head Office.

Other attractions included the Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament, won by Mr. Jolly and Miss Sanger. A Bowls match, County Council versus Staff was keenly contested; the Staff secured a narrow victory by one rink. The sale of emblems on behalf of the B. & O. Fund resulted in a substantial contribution being made to the Fund.

* * *

The **Paddington** Branch organized a cricket match between the Council and Staff on Sunday, July 18, at the Paddington Recreation Ground, in aid of the funds of the local Tuberculosis Dispensary. The Staff won the match by 107 runs.

The event was honoured by the presence of His Worship the Mayor (Alderman Sir Harold Kenyon, M.B.E., J.P.), who kindly presented a handsome silver cup to the winning team. This cup is to be competed for annually. The teams were afterwards entertained to tea by Councillor P. G. F. Barry.

North-Eastern District

Golf Competition

The Golf Competition was played on Saturday, June 26, 1937, on the Beamish Golf Course; seventeen members took part, and the result was as follows:

	Nett Score
First—Mr. J. Hipkin, Wallsend Branch	73
Second—Mr. E. J. Gray, Wallsend Branch	77
Third—Mr. F. Pyle, Wallsend Branch ..	82

The competitors were representatives of seven Branches in the North-Eastern District.

Ladies' Singles Tennis Competition

In the Final of this competition, Miss C. M. Swan, of Tynemouth, will meet Miss Joan Long, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Ladies' Doubles Tennis Competition

Misses Gray and King, of South Shields, and Misses Shackleton and Sutton, of Gateshead, are the finalists in this competition.

WEST MIDLANDS

Bowls.—The District Competition was played at Wolverhampton on June 26. A large entry took part in a most successful and enjoyable competition. The winner was Mr. A. Till (Wolverhampton), and the "runner-up" Mr. G. A. Baker (Wolverhampton). Mr. H. R. Jones, Honorary Secretary of the District Committee, presented the cup and other prizes.

Golf.—The first annual competition for the West Midland Trophy and the fourth annual competition of the Shropshire Branch were held at the Shrewsbury Golf Club on May 29. The competitors were fortunate in experiencing delightful weather.

The District Competition was a great success, with an entry of fifty-six from Birmingham, Herefordshire, Sedgley, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Smethwick, Solihull, Stoke-on-Trent, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Worcester and Worcestershire.

The leading scores were Mr. W. R. Brown, Smethwick (87—20—67); Mr. J. H. Harris, Walsall (85—17—68); and Mr. R. N. Hines, Worcestershire (85—16—69).

The prizes were presented by Mr. H. Taylor, Deputy Town Clerk of Stoke-on-Trent, who said that he felt the continued success of the competition was assured.

The Shropshire Competition was won by Mr. J. Matthews (79—9—70). Mr. J. M. Owen and Mr. G. Judge were winners of the second and third prizes. Dr. Elliott presented the prizes and congratulated the winners.

Very hearty votes of thanks to the Shrewsbury Golf Club for the use of the course, and to Mr. E. S. Knowles for the excellent arrangements made were enthusiastically passed.

New Branches

Hinckley.—Mr. Lucas E. Rumsey, Clerk of the Leicester County Council, and the Divisional Secretary, were present at a well-attended meeting of local officers on June 22, when it was decided to form a Branch from July 1. Mr. A. S. Atkins, Clerk of the Council, presided, and Mr. J. G. S. Tompkins accepted office as Hon. Secretary.

Tamworth.—The Officers of the Borough, the Rural District Council, and the Joint Waterworks Committee have formed a Branch from July 1.

Prizewinners in BEANO 1937 Competition

Buy a Beano! Some are needy,
Come on Nalgo! Make it speedy.

was the winning slogan in the Competition organized by Beano, 1937. The prizewinners and the correct solution to the Competition are published below.

1st Prize—£20	Mr. T. H Holding, Rhode House, 19, Windle Street, St. Helens, Lancs.
2nd Prize—£10	Miss M. Allen, 26, Albert Street, Dundee, Angus.
3rd Prize—£5	Mr. A. W. H. Slaughter, 26, Lincoln Gardens, Ilford, Essex.
Universal Midget Radio Set	Mr. H. Driver, 38, Pinewood Avenue, Wakefield, Yorks.
Electric Vacuum Cleaner	Miss M. Dempsey, The Haven, Crofthill Road, Slough, Bucks.
Teddy Bear Reversible Motor Rug	Mr. B. W. Oriel-Davies, 75, Chaffinch Road, Beckenham, Kent.
Week-end for Two at "The Marguerite," Margate	Mr. D. Watson, 89, City Way, Rochester, Kent.
Walnut Coffee Table	Mr. H. V. Jinks, 20, Lewis Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Yorks.
Oak Coffee Table	Mr. E. P. Bradshaw, Borough Accountant's Dept., Ramsford House, Chelmsford.
Six-Sixteen Kodak Camera	Mr. G. S. Taylor, Holton, 92, Lister Street, Rotherham, Yorks.
Week-end for Two at Palm Bay Court Hotel, Margate	Mr. W. Myson, 35, Hill Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W.19.
Six-Twenty Kodak Camera	Mr. W. M. Spencer, Rostrevor, Castle Road, Colne, Lancs.
Oak Coffee Table	Mr. D. Groom, The Galens, Wellington Road, Taunton.
Walnut Tea Wagon	Mr. E. L. G. Simpson, 25, Nelthorpe Street, Lincoln.
Week-end for One at Marlborough Hotel, Margate	Mr. A. H. Wright, St. Leonards, Longstomps Avenue, Chelmsford.
Week-end for One at Northdown Hall, Margate	Mr. J. Young, Charnwood, Penenden Heath Road, Maidstone.
Six-Twenty Brownie Camera	Miss H. Simpson, 25, Nelthorpe Street, Lincoln.
Oak Tea Wagon	Mr. S. A. Brown, 24, Junction Lane, St. Helens.
24" Revelation Suitcase	Mr. W. Lyon, 25, Blackbrook Road, Redgate, St. Helens, Lancs.
Nest of Tables in Oak	Mr. E. Edmondson, 674, Chorley Old Road, Bolton, Lancs.
Portable Gramophone	Mr. H. Partington, 28, Barcroft Road, Smithhills, Bolton.
Portable Gramophone	Mr. E. A. Walker, Engineer's Office, Town Hall, Long Eaton.
H.M.V. Electric Iron	Mr. F. Burnell, 5, Wolsey Avenue, Pontefract, Yorks.
Radio Table	Mr. A. A. Cumming, 74, Booth Road, Waterfoot, Rossendale.
Set of Classic Records	Mr. F. G. Longley, 8, Oozebooth Terrace, Blackburn.
Waterman Fountain Pen	Miss I. Allen, 26, Albert Street, Dundee, Angus.
Chromium Table Lamp with Shade	Mr. J. Dempsey, Health Dept., Town Hall, Slough.
Fringed Travelling Rug	Mrs. N. Denman, New Town, Langport, Somerset.
Silk Dressing Gown	Mr. F. A. Eddleston, 11, Hayes Street, St. Helens, Lancs.
Two Books	Mr. A. W. White, 44, Rotunda Road, Eastbourne.
Trouser Press	Mr. F. M. Buckingham, Surveyor's Dept., Town Hall, Wallington.
Rolled Gold Eversharp Pencil	Mr. F. Mather, Lynton, 66, Fecitt Brow, Blackburn, Lancs.
Two Tickets, London to Margate, on East Kent Express Coaches	Mr. F. F. Evans, 59, Tremadoc Road, London, S.W.4.
Bridge Set in Leather Case	Mr. J. H. Bowers, 16, Brooke Avenue, Upton-by-Chester.
Oak Book Trough	Mr. J. F. Cutler, 67, Ashes Road, Causeway Green, Langley, Birmingham.
Travelling Clock	Dr. D. Morley, Municipal Offices, Cheltenham.
Petrol Lighter	Mr. J. Chew, 62, Langham Road, Blackburn, Lancs.
Electric Iron	Mr. A. Cochrane, 175, Eversley Avenue, Barnehurst, Bexleyheath.
Leather Music Case	Mr. A. Goodwill, 30, Bright Street, Southport.
Chromium Pull-Match Stand	Mr. P. J. Barsby, 52, Norfolk Road, Long Eaton, near Nottingham.

Solution to Competition

(1) The Pier, Rothesay.
(2) The Floral Bridge, Southport.
(3) The Pavilion and Promenade, Colwyn Bay.
(4) Madeira Cove, Weston-super-Mare.
(5) Pavilion, Bournemouth.
(6) Leas Cliff Pavilion, Folkestone.
(7) Swimming Pool, Plymouth.
(8) Ovingdene, Brighton.
(9) Winter Gardens, Cheltenham.
(10) The Yacht Pond, Blackpool.
(11) Princes Street, Edinburgh.
(12) The Harbour, Bridlington.

OBITUARY

Miss Gwen M. Draper, age 23, passed away in hospital on June 25, 1937. She was educated at the Harpurhey High School, Manchester, and joined the staff of the Manchester Public Libraries six years ago. Known as "Chips" at the Cayton Bay Holiday Centre, she spent her last four holidays there, and formed many friendships amongst members of the Association.

Nalgo (Metropolitan District) Operatic and Dramatic Society

Do you know that you can assist Nalgo's own Society—which is devoted to the prosperity of the B. & O. Fund—in one or more of the following ways:

1. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.

The society has vacancies for active members male or female. The operatic section particularly needs tenor and baritone voices. The payment of an annual subscription of 10s. 6d. entitles you to participate in both sections—Dramatic and operatic.

2. PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS.

If you have no desire to appear before the footlights, you can do useful and interesting work behind the scenes.

3. VICE-PRESIDENTS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

You can be a Vice-President on payment of an annual subscription of £1 1s. or an Associate Member on payment of an annual sub. of (a) 10s. 6d. or (b) 5s. Tickets to the full value of the subscription will be allocated to you.

4. OUTSIDE REPRESENTATION.

You can be a voluntary outside representative of the society and organize a party of your colleagues, relations and friends to see one of the society's productions.

5. PROPAGANDA.

And you can advertise the activities of the society throughout your branch.

Please write, or phone, to the Hon. Sec., Mr. J. E. Williams, of Town Hall, Hammersmith, W.6 (Tel. Riv. 6011) for Application Forms and further information.

FUTURE PRODUCTIONS season 1937-38

At the King George's Hall, Caroline Street, W.C.1, on Friday and Saturday, November 5 and 6, 1937, "DISTINGUISHED GATHERING" a play in three acts by James Parish.

Also at the King George's Hall on Wed. to Sat. February 15 to 19, 1938, "THE YEOMAN OF THE GUARD," an Opera by Gilbert and Sullivan.